



ENTRE NOUS  
2016 - 2017









Horizon

DEO DOCTRINAE ALTERNANT



# ENTRE NOUS

## 2016-2017

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# A 175<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY WELCOME

An anniversary is much more than a celebration of the passing of a single year. It is a recognition of the culmination of many years prior leading up to a commemorative date. This is true of wedding anniversaries, birthdays, some holidays and any other special event worth celebrating.

At Samford, the celebration of the university's 175<sup>th</sup> anniversary is not only the recognition of a milestone, but a memorial of years past. After our roots were planted at Howard College, we grew until we were transplanted to Lakeshore Drive. We've seen growth in our academic ventures, student involvement, athletic success and spiritual strength.

A yearbook is similar to an anniversary. A collection of memories spanning an academic year, it acknowledges more than the events from that year. It represents the growth of the university from the first day after its founding in 1841 to 175 years later. It reaches back into timeless traditions, growing activities and new endeavors. The foundational builders of these organizations, athletic teams, academic colleges and Greek houses are reflected in every story on Samford's campus.

Like the founders and memories that shaped our current history, the students on these pages will be engrained into history as well. They are forming the future of the university on a daily basis, with stories coming into fruition that will be told 175 years from now.

My hope is that this book will be a testament to the history that was made in this 2016-2017 school year. I hope that when this book is looked back on someday, its readers will see that the histories of yesterday that shaped our histories of today will shape their histories of tomorrow.

Happy 175<sup>th</sup> birthday, Samford.

Hallie King  
Editor-in-Chief



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# STUDENT LIFE

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# Orientation

Orientation, more intimately known as Bulldog Days, was an intimidating and exciting time for freshmen and orientation leaders alike. Over five weekends from June through August, incoming freshmen first encountered their classmates and discovered the meaning of being a Samford student.

"Orientation gave me some of my closest and my first college friends," said sophomore nursing major Hannah Hawthorne. "It's a great way to meet people and get outside of your comfort zone from that start."

It was an exciting opportunity to get to know people before move-in day. It was an overwhelming experience with purpose. It pushed incoming freshmen out of their comfort zone and allowed them to get to know the campus, residents and atmosphere. Students learn about different aspects of academic life, discover the realities of residence life and integrate into daily activities across campus.

"Orientation was a busy experience but it made me well-prepared for coming to Samford in the fall," said freshman exercise science major Rachel Capper.

Orientation also gives students the opportunity to make upperclassman connections through their orientation leaders. Many of the relationships built during a single orientation weekend develop into permanent friendships.

"There are many people that I met at orientation that I still consider to be some of my good friends," Kaitlin Hehir, freshman journalism and mass communication major, said. "I am so thankful that I got to know them before school started."

Orientation was a rewarding experience for students, families and leaders, preparing the incoming class for what the next four years would bring.

*Article by Bri Haynes*

*Photos contributed by Abby Carbonara*

*Anniversary Fact: A record 5,471 students enrolled for the fall 2016 term. The previous record was 5,206 from 2015.*





# Connections



Connections weekend was an exciting time for incoming students and the student leaders involved. The Connections leaders had a wonderful opportunity to be the first faces that incoming students meet on Samford's campus once they begin their college career.

"I still get coffee with my Connections leader on a regular basis," said freshman art major Molly Greene, "and their interest for how am I doing always blows me away."

The Connections leaders faced the pivotal assignment of bridging the gap for students as they transitioned from living at home to beginning their Samford stories.

"Every freshman has hesitations about making new friends in college and I was no exception," said freshman pharmacy major Katie Paniucki. "However, my connections leader wasn't just a friendly face for that weekend, but all over campus first semester and I even got to run home to her on bid day."

This unique relationship was representative of the encouraging and inclusive culture found at Samford. From dinners at Birmingham's most iconic restaurants to a carnival in Railroad Park, the leaders dedicated their time to the students throughout the entire Connections weekend.



It is a time of anxiety and a time of excitement. Leaders prioritized making the students comfortable, often at the expense of their own comfort. To create a stress-free weekend, the leaders focused on being fun-loving and comfortable in their own skin. Confidence and openness allowed the incoming students to break down their own protective walls and begin making friendships with their peers.

The bonds that are formed with Connections leaders sometimes span an entire college experience. Junior Emily Miller expressed her gratitude to her Connections leaders that she had when she was a freshman.

"I still hang out with people in my Connections group, which is something I love about Samford and Connections," said Miller. "You are able to be friends with people representing all parts of campus."

Connections weekend allowed the leaders and incoming students to build relationships and confidence through team building activities, fellowship and an enthusiastic, encouraging environment.

*Article by Caroline Stitts*

*Photos contributed by Abby Carbonara*

**Anniversary Fact:** 100 selected upperclassmen commit their first weekend back on campus to welcoming incoming freshman through Connections.



# Welcome Back Week





Each day of Welcome Back Week 2016, festivities were held in Ben Brown Plaza and across campus.

The night before the first day of classes, the quad was filled with some of Birmingham's favorite vendors. Students gathered for a picnic on the quad followed by the Your School, Your City concert featuring Drew Holcomb and the Neighbors as well as country duo Dan and Shay.

"My favorite part of Welcome Back Week was reuniting with friends and enjoying a concert to kick off the school year. It is always a great time to catch up after a long summer break," senior early childhood education major Kristen Fuller said.

Not even a rain storm could stop returning students from celebrating their reunion. Students were sent indoors midway through the Dan and Shay performance, but rushed out to resume the show immediately after the rain ceased.

"Standing and singing in the rain was a great bonding experience," said junior international relations major Laura Allen.

To kick off the week, a Sweets and Snapshots themed stand was on display in Ben Brown Plaza on Monday. Students enjoyed snacks in between classes and partook in the photo booth set up to document the first week of classes of fall 2016. Opening convocation and campus worship resumed the following day.

Another favorite activity of the week was movie night on the quad, where students grabbed their blankets and their friends to watch a showing of "Parent Trap."

The week ended with the first tailgate of the season and a 77-7 football victory over Mars Hill.

"My favorite event was the first football game," said freshman pre-nursing major Bethany White. "As a freshman, I got to experience tailgating for the first time with the upperclassmen."

Welcome Back Week quickly immersed students back into classes and campus life through an exciting start of the upcoming year.

*Article by Kristen Jackson*

*Photos by Maddie Sundberg*



*Anniversary Fact:* Notable past Your School, Your City artists include Dierks Bentley in 2011, Lecrae in 2013 and Phillip Phillips in 2014.





A month into the semester, families gathered on the quad where they laughed and enjoyed spending time with one another. The 2016 Family Weekend was one of immense excitement and happiness as families from all over the country met on campus for one busy weekend enjoyed by parents and students alike.

"I loved family weekend because my friends and their families got to meet my family, and we all got to hang out after the football game," said Annie Roache, a freshman pre-business major.

From parent academies and prayer walks to quad tailgates and the football game against Wofford University, Family Weekend kept participants busy.

"In recent years, parents have enjoyed new ways to connect with faculty members through the Family Weekend Parent Academy and with each other through Samford Parent Chapter efforts," said Susan Doyle, director of parent programs. "All it takes is a quick glance at Family Weekend tailgating to see how much we all enjoy being together."

As a tradition on campus, the weekend gave timeless memories to families. For example, parents celebrated the Bulldogs' 28-26 win against Wofford. Parents also met many of their children's professors and administrators.

"One thing I've always treasured about Samford is the covenant relationship between the university community and the families of our students," said Executive Assistant to the President Michael Morgan. "Indeed, there is a business transaction — tuition is paid and educational experiences are provided. But we are privileged to share so much more as we share the love of Christ far beyond our classrooms. It is so very special to get to spend time with the parents of students we have come to know."

As another Family Weekend passes, students and staff immediately begin looking forward to their next Family Weekend and the excitement that it always brings.

*Article by Stephen DeFrancesco*

*Photos by Natascha Anderson, Katie Roth*



*Anniversary Fact:* Family Weekend 2016 hosted the second annual Parents Academy, where families attended classes from schools across campus.





# Homecoming Week

Thousands of Samford alumni, students and their families celebrated the university's 175<sup>th</sup> anniversary with a special homecoming week from Monday, Nov. 7 to Friday, Nov. 11.

On Monday through Thursday, the Student Activities Council hosted student-focused activities to celebrate the homecoming week and upcoming athletic events. Different snacks, refreshments and games were provided in Ben Brown Plaza each day. Closing the activities was a scavenger hunt and Thursday evening pep rally complete with food trucks, a DJ and more games.

Friday began the ceremonial events celebrating the university's anniversary and legacy. A festival procession led students and faculty to the Wright Center for the special 175<sup>th</sup> anniversary convocation. Students dressed in colorful cultural clothing and carried national flags, banners and symbols of their student organizations. They gathered in Ben Brown Plaza and followed the Samford victory flag with faculty, staff and alumni of the various schools in a parade around the campus to showcase the love and diversity throughout Samford.

Following was a sacred, memorable and meaningful worship service with performances by Samford's mixed choirs and orchestra. During the convocation, President Andrew Westmoreland announced the approval by the board of trustees to launch a fundraising campaign with a goal of \$300 million. Guests from across the university celebrated in fellowship and appreciation during the ceremony.

That evening, thousands of students, faculty, alumni and guests gathered in the beautifully transformed Pete Hanna Center for the once-in-a-lifetime 175<sup>th</sup> anniversary ball. The night was filled with Samford historical images, a birthday greeting video prepared by famous Entre Nous

alumni around the world, spectacular food, youthful music by Atlanta Rhythm and Groove, and hours of dancing.

During the ball, seniors Margaret Hehir and Micah Green-Holloway were crowned homecoming queen and king. They were chosen in a campus-wide vote by the student body. The 2016 alumni award recipients were also recognized and received commemorative medals from Dr. Westmoreland to celebrate their successes and contributions to the community.

The week served as a homecoming and anniversary celebration for students, faculty, alumni, families and visitors alike coming together out of love for the university.

*Article by Pang Tu Yung*

*Photos by Pang Tu Yung and Ziyi Zhang*







*Anniversary Fact:* The alumni association hosted the first official alumni reunion and banquet in 1870, which later evolved into the homecoming ball.



# Homecoming Weekend



#SAMFORDHC





The 175<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Samford was celebrated with a homecoming weekend full of historical moments. From celebratory convocations to class reunions to football games, the campus buzzed with excitement during the November weekend.

"The vision for homecoming, shared by so many of us, was for it to be a celebration that would be enjoyed by our entire community," said Samford University President Andrew Westmoreland.

The community celebration involved students attending the homecoming tailgate and football game on Saturday where the Bulldogs defeated Mercer 24 to 19. Mary Catherine Sansom, one of the representatives for the senior class, was recognized along with the rest of the homecoming court during halftime at the game.

"It was an honor to even be nominated, and it was definitely a surprise," said Sansom, a senior nursing and health sciences major. "It was so much fun, though, and definitely a part of my Samford story I'll never forget. It was really special being on the stage and on the field, and seeing all my friends and family cheering for me."

One of the students also honored was Lane Mitchell, the freshman homecoming court representative.

"The best part about being on homecoming court was knowing that I was doing something right in my first semester of college," said Mitchell, a freshman marketing major. "I feel like everybody makes changes in who they are as a person when they transition from high school to college, and being on homecoming court almost verified that I was doing something right. It definitely made me look forward to what the future holds for me in the next coming years."

Homecoming weekend, especially the tailgate and football game, was one that will never be forgotten in the history of the university. It was a community celebration for the ages.

*Article by Stephen DeFrancesco*

*Photos by Sarah Ferrell and Alyssa Hall*



**Anniversary Fact:** The first homecoming weekend celebration took place in 1866 when the first Samford president returned to Howard College for a visit.



# Miss Samford



Miss Samford is a pageant and scholarship program that is held on campus annually. Girls from both undergraduate and graduate schools can participate. There are six different categories upon which scores are given: fitness, evening gown, talent, on-stage question, platform and interviews.

This year, seven contestants competed for the title and reign of Miss Samford as well as the chance to participate in the Miss Alabama pageant. The theme for Miss Samford 2017 was "Oh the Places You Will Go" based on the popular children's book. Christine Chilton Carr, Miss Samford 1997, announced the show and explored all the places Miss Samford has gone and might go in the future.

Throughout the pageant, the audience experienced a variety of talents. Singing, dancing and acting showed each girl's individual personality and strengths. The on-stage question helped the judges measure confidence and public speaking ability amongst the contestants. Each participant donned evening gowns to show posture and poise. The fitness portion offered each girl the chance to showcase her healthy habits.

Miss Samford 2016, Alyson Nuwayhid, got one last chance to perform her talent, a Bollywood Dance that floored the audience.

"I was so nervous," said Nuwayhid, "but also so ready to perform!"

A video following her performance showed the impact that she made on the Samford community through her platform. At the end of the night, she took her final walk as Miss Samford and crowned sophomore pre-pharmacy major Aly York Miss Samford 2017.

"Pursuing my dream of becoming Miss Samford took a lot of time and commitment, however it was and has been so worth it," said York. "When I heard the emcee call my name, I was in shock that the dream that I had worked so hard to achieve was becoming a reality."

Those close to York witnessed her preparation months in advance and it paid off when the day came.

"She was nervous all day, but I would know as soon as she hit the stage she was very confident and it showed," said Ruth Fleenor, sophomore graphic design major and York's roommate. "I was so happy to see Aly win something that she worked so hard for."

York competed in the Miss Alabama pageant in June, a qualifying event for the national Miss America competition.

*Article by Mary Hailey Sinyard and Hallie King*

*Photos by Brinkley Mebane*



*Anniversary Fact:* The first Miss Samford pageant was held in 1948, and nine winners have since represented Alabama in the Miss America competition.





# Hanging of the Green

*Anniversary Fact* Hanging of the Green became Samford tradition in 1980 after the old English custom was introduced to campus by former campus minister Ginny Bridges.

The Samford community began the Christmas season on Dec. 1 with the traditional Hanging of the Green service at 6 p.m. in Reid Chapel.

The service began with the processional hymn "Prepare the Way, O Zion," a call to worship and an opening prayer. Anthems and hymns were sung throughout the service by the University Chorale, directed by professor of undergraduate music Sharon Lawhon. The service also included the lighting of an Advent wreath symbolizing hope, peace, joy, love and Christ, and the decoration of a Christmas tree.

"I thought it was valuable to see the way Samford was trying to preserve the tradition they have revolving around Christmas," said sophomore philosophy major Moriah Windus.

The service was led by 12 senior honorees who were nominated by the university's faculty and staff because of their outstanding leadership and accomplishments throughout their time at Samford. Each senior either read scripture or shared the meaning of one of the various Christmas symbols including cedar, evergreen trees, holly and the Christmas tree.

"It was a really fun way to celebrate Christmas with all my friends and connect with the traditions of Samford," said Hannah Florence, a freshman political science major. "I liked having the seniors come up and say the scripture because it felt like they were leaving their legacy. And since I'm a freshman, it was really cool to see the seniors leave their imprint through the Hanging of the Green when we freshman are still starting



our Samford journeys."

The service ended with the choir and audience members singing "Silent Night" followed by a closing prayer and benediction.

"Hanging of the Green is such a unique college tradition," said freshman journalism and mass communication major Abby Plott. "It was so meaningful to start the Christmas season with my Samford family on such a heartwarming night."

*Article by Katie Roth*

*Photos by Pang Tu Yung*





# Lighting of the Way



Immediately following the traditional Hanging of the Green service, students walked along the candlelit pathways and gathered on the quad and around Centennial Walk for the annual Lighting of the Way festivities.

First Lady Jeanna Westmoreland opened the night with a reading of the Christmas story. President Andrew Westmoreland then joined her on stage to give a countdown for the lighting of the tree.

"As a junior, this was my first year to attend Lighting of the Way," said journalism and mass communication major Hollie Woodis. "Needless to say, I was blown away and couldn't believe I had missed the past two years of fun! It's hard to pick a favorite part, but if I had to it would be Mrs. Dr. Westmoreland reading the Christmas story."

The night continued with live music from Matt Wertz, who played classic Christmas songs along with some of his own original music.

"I think the countdown to the lighting of the tree was my favorite part. You could feel the excitement

in the air, and it was so much fun to hear everybody cheer when the campus lit up," said freshman secondary education major Emily Haine. "I also loved the live music; it was like Samford's own mini Christmas concert."

Throughout the night, students were served hot chocolate, hot apple cider and light refreshments. There were multiple tables set up where students could decorate their own cookies with red and green frosting and sprinkles. Students captured the memories of the night by taking pictures in a photo booth complete with festive props.

"Experiencing the Lighting of the Way for the first time was so special," said freshman journalism and mass communication major Meredith Webber. "Samford does such a great job getting everyone into the Christmas spirit and giving students a night to relax and have fun before the stress of finals sinks in."

*Article by Katie Roth*

*Photos by Pang Tu Yung*

**Anniversary Fact:** Lighting of the Way started following Hanging of the Green in 2001. This year marked the celebration's 15th year on campus.



# Step Sing

With a groundbreaking record of 17 shows and over 1,100 participants, Step Sing 2017 lived up to and exceeded the expectations of one of Samford's greatest traditions. The directors and participants worked tirelessly to create original and entertaining shows for the audiences and judges. Pi Kappa Phi's dad-themed show, "The Greatest Job on Earth," took home the Sweepstakes grand prize.

"The way our group committed to this theme that Christian, Rich and I had worked so hard on, and to see each guy (and girl) work to make the show get better every time we took the stage, would have made any result feel like a win in my book," said senior history major Will Roberson.

This year the committee took a reflective approach to deciding the theme for Step Sing.

"The idea of trees stemmed from a desire to honor Samford's 175<sup>th</sup> birthday though Step Sing. 'We sit in the shade of trees we did not plant,' often quoted by Dr. Westmoreland, represented the rich history of those who have gone before us

## *Anniversary Fact*

The Step Sing tradition began on the steps of Renfroe Hall at Howard College in 1951. The Wright Center became its home in 1976.

to make Samford what it is today," senior human development and family science major Allie Gassner said.

In addition to promoting a theme that would celebrate the history of Samford, Step Sing participants and audience members went above and beyond to honor and support a philanthropy. They raised a total of \$14,100 for Shauna's House, a transition home for Ukrainian orphanage graduates through Lifesong for Orphans in honor of Shauna Yelton.

"I was excited about the way that Lifesong for Orphans as a whole is doing in evangelizing and spreading the gospel and making disciples," said senior management major Chloe Roberts. "Shauna's house was just the best fit for this year. We were excited to have a new way to partner with athletics. Coach Yelton and his wife are obviously an inspiration. It was incredible to be part of something greater than ourselves."

*Article by Kristen Jackson*

*Photos by Sarah Ferrell and Katie Roth*





## Freshman Ladies - *The Drop*

This year Freshman Ladies reunited for a day in the amusement park. It all began with scouting out the greatest coaster in the park, then continued with the climb up the track and a break dance to capture the excitement of the ride. Notable songs were "The Climb" by Miley Cyrus, "Geronimo" by Sheppard and "Don't Stop Believing" by Journey.



## Independent Ladies - *Writing on the Wall*

The Indie Ladies took audiences back in time to a land filled with pyramids, sphinxes, treasures and hieroglyphic prophecies. Their show, complete with cartouches, portrayed Egyptian royalty in the most captivating light. Notable songs included "Writing on the Wall" by Sam Smith and "Who Run The World" by Beyoncé.

## Crossover - *Lone Star*

This year, Samford athletes made their debut on the grid. Their show documented a rising star's journey from his home to stardom in Hollywood. After experiencing the fame and flashing lights, the newly-named celebrity returned home for a sweet reunion with his biggest fan. Notable songs included "Beverly Hills" by Weezer and "Imma Star" by Jeremih.



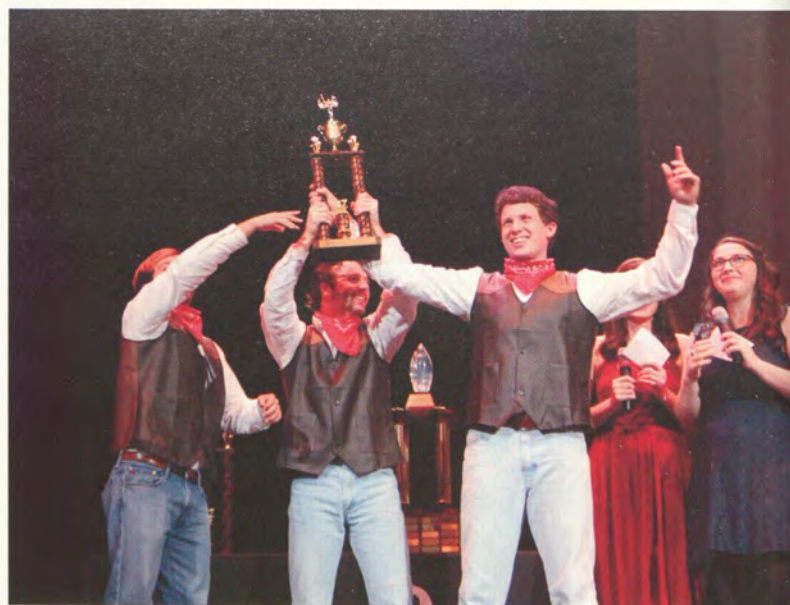
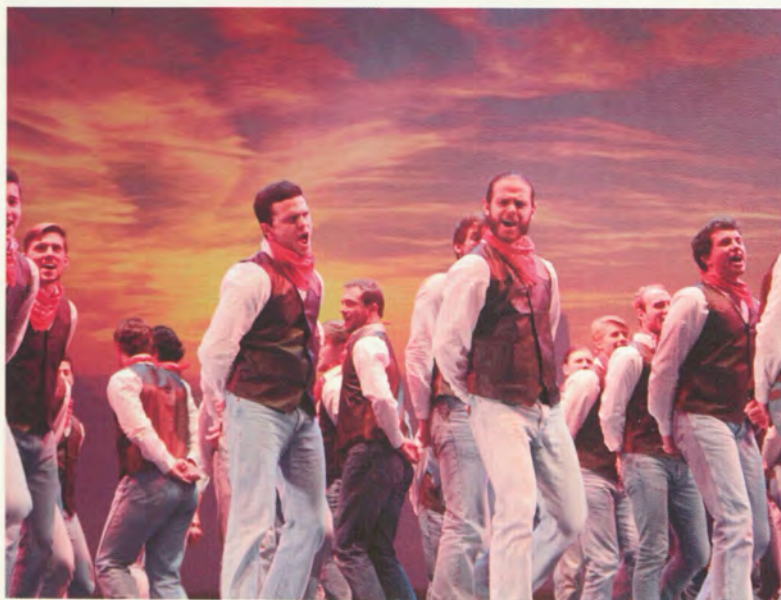
## Zeta Tau Alpha - *There's No Place Like Home*

The sisters of Zeta Tau Alpha gave Samford an inside look at the best kind of retirement living. These ladies in their eighties knew how to bust a move, score at Bingo and catch the attention of the male nurse on duty. Notable songs included "You Make Me Feel So Young" by Frank Sinatra and "Whatcha Say" by Jason Derulo.



## Sigma Chi - *Runnin' Wild*

The Outlaws of Sigma Chi were newly broken out of jail and on the run in the Wild West. An encounter with prickly cacti and a run-in with the sheriff were among the most memorable moments of the show. Notable songs included "Dead or Alive" by Bon Jovi and "It's Tricky" by RUN-DMC. Sigma Chi was named the second runner up for Sweepstakes.



## Greek Addition - *Doggonit*

Greek Addition was a collaboration of Tri Delta, Delta Sigma Theta and Alpha Kappa Alpha sororities that joined together to uncover the whereabouts of Spike the Bulldog. Notable songs included "Search Party" by Sam Bruno and "Where Have You Been" by Rihanna.

## IGNite - *You Got Served*

They screamed, you screamed, we all screamed for ice cream! Independents and Greek affiliates united to take the audience down memory lane while school girls chased after the ice cream truck with their favorite frozen treats as their prize. Notable songs included "A Moment Like This" by Kelly Clarkson and "Bet On It" from Disney's "High School Musical."





## Alpha Delta Pi - *It's a Small World*

The ants of Alpha Delta Pi welcomed the crowd into their small world to preview a typical day on the mound as they honored their queen ant, gathered food from a nearby picnic and escaped the rain. Notable songs included "The Ants Go Marching On" and "Don't Let Me Down" by the Chainsmokers. Alpha Delta Pi was recognized for favorite moment as voted on by the overall Step Sing committee.



## Dudes-A-Plenty - *Operation: Doomsday*

DAP told the story of super villains who struggled to follow through with evil plots. After the super villains were denied membership into the International League of Super Villains, they were inspired to take away the one thing the world could never live without: WiFi. Notable songs included "Turn This Thing Around" by El Presidente and "You Make Me Feel Like A Natural Woman" by Aretha Franklin.

## Freshman Girls - *Flipping Out*

Freshman Girls offered a glimpse into the life of a mermaid in the depths of the deep blue sea. Dreaming of living among mankind, they journeyed up to the shore only to find that there really is no place like home. Notable songs included "Under the Sea" from Disney's "The Little Mermaid" and "Baby, It's Cold Outside" by Frank Loesser. Freshman Girls were recognized for best costumes as voted on by participants.



## Phi Mu - *Abandoned*

The once well-loved dolls of Phi Mu found themselves abandoned by their former owner who recently adopted a newer, less chipped doll to play with. The dolls found themselves in deep despair and wondered if they would ever be loved again like before. Notable songs included "Send My Love (To Your New Lover)" by Adele and "Survivor" by Destiny's Child.



## Pi Kappa Phi - *The Greatest Job on Earth*

The dads of Pi Kappa Phi stepped up to the plate to take care of the kids when mom left home for the day. A to-do list required them to teach the kids their ABC's, wash the car, change diapers and do the laundry. The dads were put to the test to see if they could complete the list without fearless Mom at their side. Notable songs included "ABC" by The Jackson 5 and the Full House theme song. The fraternity proudly accepted the title of Step Sing 2017 Sweepstakes winners.



## Alpha Omicron Pi - *Knocked Out*

The sisters of Alpha Omicron Pi relived their first slumber party. Their night captured all of our favorite childhood memories of eating junk food, telling secrets and pulling all-nighters with friends. Notable songs included "Girls Just Wanna Have Fun" by Cyndi Lauper and "Lip Gloss" by Lil Mama.

## Spectrum - *The Fall*

Spectrum reenacted the rare occurrence of a snow day in the South, also known as the snowpocalypse of 2014. This magical day was made complete with the building of a snowman, sledding down rolling hills, ice skating and an epic snowball fight on the quad. Notable songs included "Vuelie" from Pixar's Frozen, "Proud Mary" by Tina Turner and the Christmas classic, "Let It Snow."

Entre Nous





## Chi Omega - *Drop the Beat*

Behind every cafeteria assembly line is a team of hardworking lunch ladies. The sisters of Chi Omega took us behind the counter of the lunchroom to witness the assembling of the dessert table and the sounding of the alarm when a fire is caught in the kitchen. Notable songs included "Push It" by Salt-N-Pepa, "Go Your Own Way" by Fleetwood Mac and "Me Too" by Meghan Trainor.



## Alpha Tau Omega - *Mine for the Taking*

The miners of Alpha Tau Omega traveled into the depths of the coal mines for an adventure that would become the ultimate test of endurance and determination. A highlight from their show was the ripple resulting from the exploding TNT. Notable songs included "Heigh-Ho" from Disney's classic film "Snow White" and "I Saw the Light" by Hank Williams. Alpha Tau Omega was named first runner up for Sweepstakes.



## Sophomore Girls - *The Final Rose*

Sophomore Girls put the "petal to the metal" and gave the audience a glimpse into a day in the life of gardeners. Though they faced the challenges of weeds, bees and a drought, these gardeners pulled together to grow something beautiful. Notable songs included "Build Me Up Buttercup" by The Foundations, "Kokomo" by The Beach Boys and Gungor's "Beautiful Things", which left the audience so awestruck and in an ensemble of swaying flashlights that it won them the committee choice award for favorite song.



# Samford Gives Back

On April 1, over 900 students gathered in the Wright Center to hear an opening address from Dr. Andrew Westmoreland. Samford Gives Back was filled with excitement, anticipation and a record number of students ready to serve.

Student groups traveled all across Birmingham, serving in whatever capacity they could at various job sites.

"My team, with mainly Freshman Forum members and other SGA representatives, went to New Rising Star Missionary Baptist Church to help sort clothes," said Elizabeth Sturgeon, a sophomore English and journalism and mass communication major. "You never know how much one day of service will affect a community, but I think we accomplished a lot and connected the church to Samford students."

Whether folding clothes or gardening, students embraced Samford Gives Back with a passion to serve their community.

"I participated in Samford Gives Back with the pre-pharmacy club. We ripped up carpet and painted at M-Power in Avondale, which is a walk-in health clinic and ministry," said Lucy Rinehuls, a freshman pharmacy major. "The most rewarding aspect was knowing that the patients will have a renovated, welcoming environment to go to when they need assistance."

Samford Gives Back, sponsored by the Frances Marlin Mann Center for Ethics and Leadership, was something many students and faculty members looked forward to throughout the year.

"My favorite part about helping coordinate Samford Gives Back is the day of

the event when our students gain a glimpse into the work our community partners and agencies do on a daily basis," said Kelly Adams, Frances Marlin Mann Center for Ethics and Leadership program administrator. "My hope is that students will respond to these needs for more than just a few hours on a Saturday morning and continue their service to the community as a discipline that will last a lifetime."

Students and staff members made Samford Gives Back the most attended service event of the year, showing the community why Samford is truly unique.

*Article by Stephen DeFrancesco*

*Photos by Sydney Griffin*







*Anniversary Fact:*  
Close to 1,000 students  
volunteered at over 40  
Birmingham locations during  
Samford Gives Back 2017.



# Harry's Coffeehouse

In the University Center stands the heart of student life. Used for anything from concerts to weekly bible studies, Harry's Coffeehouse was the epicenter of student activities on campus.

While many events happen in Harry's, some of the most popular gatherings were the concerts that took place every third Thursday of the month. The Student Activities Council music committee sponsored monthly concerts to promote campus involvement and give students a chance to hear some of their favorite artists.

"My favorite part of organizing concerts in Harry's is brainstorming with the committee about who we should bring to Samford and finding unique partnerships among the student body to increase attendance," said Savannah Holaday, junior journalism and mass communications major. "The concerts have exposed students to music they would not have normally listened to or artists they may not have heard of. It also gives them the opportunity to listen for free."

SAC members organized these events regularly.

"I love the way Harry's Coffeehouse gives our SAC music committee real experience putting on a live show," said Meg Burleson, coordinator of student activities and events. "These students work hard to put on a show for their fellow students, and it's a unique way for them to connect across campus."

Student organizations hosted regular concerts as well. In December, SAVE hosted a Christmas concert to raise money for medical needs in Bourkeron, Haiti. Students gathered and performed together in groups and individually.

"I loved being able to perform in Harry's for SAVE because it was great having all of my friends come and support me and my group," said Morgan Giesler, freshman elementary education major. "I think everyone was really excited to see all of their peers perform for such a great cause, and having everyone there made the concert even more exciting."

Harry's Coffeehouse proved to be one of the most popular places on campus, and the array of activities hosted in the coffeehouse showed the thriving student life at Samford.

*Article by Stephen DeFrancesco*

*Photos contributed by Will Wright*

Entre Nous



## *Anniversary Fact:*

Harry's Coffeehouse was named after a Samford janitor who saved students from a campus fire in 1854 before dying from the resulting injuries.



# International Club

*Anniversary Fact:* Current Samford enrollment reflects 29 countries represented in the undergraduate and graduate student body.



The International Club is a student-led organization that strived to create a space for international students and domestic students to form relationships on Samford's campus. It celebrated cultures and provided opportunities to learn and share traditions, languages and perspectives.

"I Club is about building bridges between the nations," said junior journalism and mass communication major and the club's domestic student public relations officer Sara Burris. "It allows students of all nationalities to come together and form long lasting friendships."

During the semester, the International Club held events both on and off campus with fun cultural flare, such as putting on an international tea party in which members from different nations brought tea native to their countries so that everyone could sample and learn about all of the cultural traditions. The club also hosted parties for different cultural holidays like Chinese New Year and Halloween.

The club wanted to make international students feel at home while simultaneously teaching domestic students and students from other nations about unique traditions and cultures.

"No matter who you are, your ethnicity,



background, religion, all are accepted and given the same wonderful opportunities," said International Club member and law student Michael Pyefinch from the United Kingdom. "It is a great way to get stuck into campus activities and make friendships for life. Oh, and they cook for you."

International Club hosted cooking nights with native chefs to enjoy traditional foods and a great time. Ethnic foods always made an appearance when the club convened.

The International Club was a great way to witness the nations come together, enjoy delicious food, see diverse perspectives and make lasting friendships.

"I Club is an amazing opportunity to not only interact with people from other cultures but also to learn about and appreciate diversity through building meaningful relationships," said junior secondary education major and secretary Bella McLay.

The International Club, before anything else, was about community, providing a space to form these relationships and ensuring that all international students were included during their time at Samford.

*Article by Lexi Gilbert*

*Photos contributed by Maggie Flotemersch*



# Residence Life

The mission of the Department of Residence Life at Samford is “to serve the Samford Community by providing high-quality and safe residential facilities while fostering the residents’ educational, personal, social and spiritual development within a Christian environment.” The residence staff ensures that new students feel welcome with fun traditions that immerse them into a community and well-trained resident assistants welcome and guide their residents.

“As a freshman RA, it is an honor to walk alongside younger girls as they mature and learn to confidently view themselves as someone who is valued,” said junior human development major Natalie Marshall.

The staff works closely together and with students to make residence life a valuable and enjoyable time.

“I love being an RA so much,” said junior human development major Sara Copley. “It has become my niche in college and every single person I work with is so intentional with their residents and with each other which makes working a job not so bad.”

For many, the influence an RA has on a resident inspired them to apply to become an RA to make the same impact on the class after them.

“I wanted to be an RA because I have a desire to be there for others,” said freshman international relations major Samantha Solberg. “Living with freshmen, I will be one of the first people they will become friends with at Samford. To me, that is a huge opportunity to develop relationships and show them what Samford is all about.”

For students looking to be involved in the campus community and that have a passion for developing deep relationships with other students, a position on the residence life staff may be the place to go.

*Article and photos by Emilie White*



*Anniversary Fact:*  
Residence Assistants monitor  
over 2,000 students in the 1,309  
rooms on campus every year.



# Intramurals



For many Samford students, intramural sports are part of what makes their college experiences so unique. Students form deep, long lasting friendships through their intramural teams while having fun on the field.

"I still play on the same intramural team that I played on when I was a freshman with most of the same guys, and it's been cool to deepen my friendships with them," said senior health sciences major Alec Hersh. "It's always a good time."

Intramural sports are offered year-round with multiple sports and women's, men's and co-rec teams. Students play on the intramural fields, in Seibert gym and around campus. The games are a fun way for students to pick up sports they played in the past or learn a new sport that they have never played before. Whether you play for a Greek Life team or another non-Greek affiliated team on campus, there are always opportunities for anyone to join.

"I enjoy playing intramural sports because I like having a lot of intramural championship shirts, and the 'Goonsquad' is the realest team out there," said senior geography major Jeff Seitz.

"It is a fun and competitive atmosphere that

serves as a getaway from classes and homework," said senior Brock Scholar Brock Fogle.

Regardless of your background in athletics, Samford intramurals is a great opportunity to get out, get active and make great friends in the process.

*Article by Sara Burris*

*Photo by Hallie King*

## *Intramural Sports:*

Billiards

Table Tennis

Soccer

Basketball

Softball

4 v 4 Volleyball

Dodgeball

Sand Volleyball

Spikeball



# Beeson Ball





On Friday March 31, Residence Life invited Samford students to commune for a night of dancing and exploration of the McWane Science Center in downtown Birmingham. Beeson Ball is an annual tradition where students can expect fun music on the dance floor and entertainment with friends beyond it.

"Beeson Ball is an opportunity for everyone to dress up and have a great time with friends," said junior health sciences major Katelyn Hayes. "It allows us to forget about deadlines and gives us a chance to focus on what is really important, how many things can we play with at the McWane Science Center."

The theme was Sweet Home Birmingham, so the third floor of the McWane Science Center was decorated with southern décor to accompany the many interactive exhibits from flying airplanes to blowing bubbles to digging up fossils. It was the perfect venue with entertainment suited for everyone in attendance.

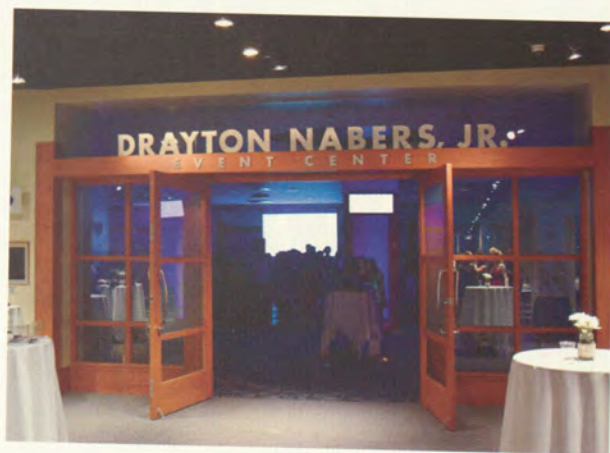
"I enjoyed having Beeson Ball at the McWane Science Center this year," said junior mathematics major Ray Herbert. "I always enjoy going to see the exhibits there, and getting to go to a dance there with my friends made the night even more enjoyable."

The Residence Life staff continually strives to make a positive impact on their residents. One of the ways they commit to this mission is by planning engaging events for the entire Samford community to enjoy.

"As one of the few formal events open to all Samford undergraduate students, Beeson Ball is a great chance to bring the Samford community together for a fun evening," said Residence Life Coordinator Rebekah Deboer. "I always enjoy working with our Residence Life staff to coordinate this event, and the McWane Science Center is a great venue for students to explore and have fun. We hope everyone had a great time."

*Article by Kristen Jackson*

*Photos by Maddie Sundberg*



**Anniversary Fact:** Beeson Ball was established in 2004 and has taken place in popular spots including Vulcan Park and the McWane Center.



# Summer Send-Off



During the last week of classes, the Student Activities Council hosted a week of celebration, free food, games and more known as Summer Send-Off. In previous years, it was called Spring Fling, but the council recently rebranded the event and moved it to the end of the semester instead of in the middle of the semester.

"We wanted to make the week a fun way to end the school year," said Paige Acker, the Director of Student Activities and Events.

Summer Send-Off was one of the major events SAC hosted during second semester. The week was designed to bring Samford students together one last time before the craziness of exams and summer began.

"For some, this will be their last week here and we want to make it special. Samford is really big on community, and we think that Summer Send-Off is a great way to encourage even more community," said Aimee Dykes, a junior management major and director of annual events.

The committee began planning for Summer Send-Off after Step Sing. SAC is a branch of Student Government Association, so they were given a budget to provide food and activities throughout the week.

The Annual Flea Market was held in Ben Brown Plaza on Tuesday, the first day of the events. Student vendors set up booths for crafts, gifts, baked goods and more. Steel City Pops set up a cart near the fountain as well.

"It was a unique opportunity to see the talented work of Samford students displayed in Ben Brown," said Claudia Stephens, a freshman biochemistry major.

On Tuesday afternoon, students had the opportunity to enjoy a tailgate before the baseball team faced UAB. The Samford County Fair came to Ben Brown on Wednesday. Bouncy houses, a high striker, frisbees, corn dogs, pretzels, churros and lemonade filled the area. Thursday, the last day of classes, was a 4<sup>th</sup> of July celebration with free barbeque in Harry's Coffeehouse.

"Getting to watch all of our plans come to fruition is really something special," said Dykes. "I love seeing people's faces light up as they walk through Ben Brown and see all of the fun happening and realize it's all for them."

*Article by Page Secreast*

*Photos by Hallie King*

Entre Nous



*Anniversary Fact: SAC hosted the second-annual Summer Send-Off after it replaced Spring Fling in the spring semester of 2016.*





# ACADEMICS

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# College of Arts and Sciences

The Howard College of Arts and Sciences, founded in 1841, is the oldest as well as the largest college on campus. With 16 departments and 30 majors, it is an attractive option for students with multiple varying interests. A liberal arts degree allows for flexibility in a future career path. With such a variety of departments, Howard College provides an education that is applicable to all parts of life. Arts and sciences students use that knowledge to discover ways to improve their department as they continue to move forward.

Not only does Howard College have a wide variety of studies, but they also have influential professors who incorporate faith into the classroom.

"My favorite thing about the program is that most of my professors are Christians and allow science to better support my faith," said junior biology and pre-med major Hannah Naugher.

Many students from the science department feel influenced by their top-rate professors.

"The professors in the College of Arts and Sciences have really pushed me to be the best student I can be," said junior biochemistry major Carter Rae. "They work hard to help me achieve my goals."

The myriad of other majors that the College of Arts and Sciences offers have been praised for their excellence as well.

"The English department is home to knowledgeable faculty and incredible classes," said Madeline Perkins, a double major in public administration and creative writing. "I get to have discussions with my peers and our professors that encourage us toward critical thinking, effective communication, and academic delight."

The university developed a strategy to guide the development of the Howard College into 2021 including creating a new mission statement, a statement of values and strategic focus areas. They focus on four main strategic focus areas: committed

people, shared purpose, academic inquiry and active participation. They strive to achieve more active participation from external relationships to greater the impact of their mission. Implementation plans include involving parents and alumni and publicizing faculty research accomplishments.

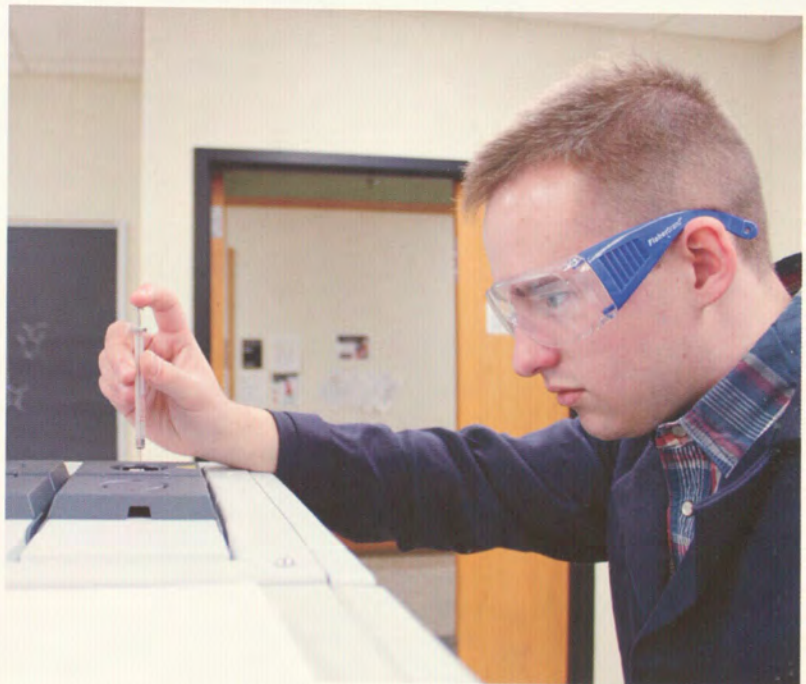
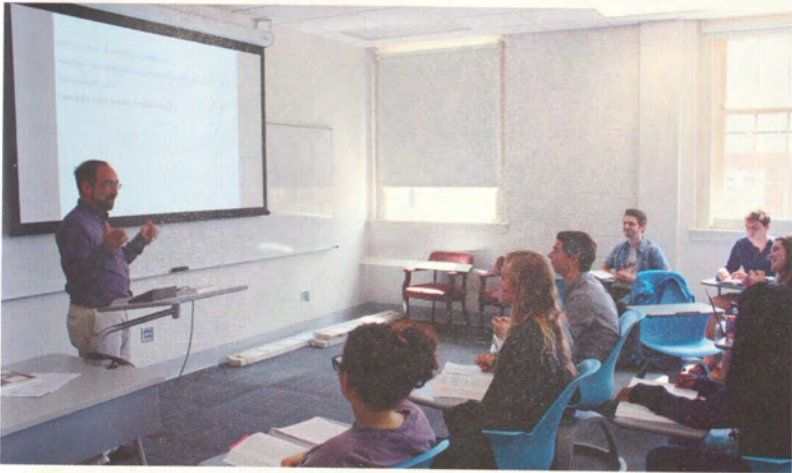
The Samford community looks forward to witnessing the growth of Howard College of Arts and Sciences and how it will implement these strategies as it strives toward excellence.

*Article by Emilie White*

*Photos by Chris Kawell*







*Anniversary Fact:*  
 The Howard College of Arts and Sciences is the founding school of Samford University and houses over 900 students.



# School of the Arts





The School of the Arts offers many opportunities for those pursuing an artistic career. It has three divisions: music, theatre and dance, and art and design. The division of music has 11 majors and the department of theatre and dance and the division of art and design both have three majors.

There were several new developments in the art school throughout the year. The interior design department built new studios in the summer of 2016, a huge development for them to have more space to work and present their projects. Also during the summer of 2016, the interior design program was re-accredited, with the design school being ranked among the top ten in the nation.

"The Interior Architecture Program at Samford has been everything I needed to further my education in what I love and then more," said junior interior design major Claire McKee. "It pushes me, but most importantly it enthralls me."

The theatre and dance program was excited about the new studios that were built on campus during the summer of 2016. They helped with classes as well as intensive rehearsal schedules and saved traveling time to off campus studios. The theatre program also celebrated its first full year with a third major. The Theatre for Youth major was recently added as a great addition to the department.

"Theatre for Youth is a wonderful program that Samford has recently offered to its students. It's expanded my growth in theatre so much and helped me kindle my passion to help and love on children," said junior theatre for youth major Emily Pitts.

Anna Beth Riggs, a junior musical theatre major explained why she loved being in the theatre department.

"When people ask what Samford theatre is like, I immediately answer, 'family,'" said Riggs. "We celebrate with each other in the victories and encourage each other in the losses."

With focuses in design, theatre, art and dance, the School of the Arts is a great place to be.

*Article by Emilie White*

*Photos by Chris Kawell*



*Anniversary Fact: The School of the Arts was established in 1915 and continues to grow each year with new students and expanding departments.*



# Brock School of Business



The Brock School of Business thrilled students as the new Cooney Hall building was finished just last year. The new development raised awareness of the business school on campus – since its construction, the department has seen major growth and expanded to include six majors.

Accredited by the Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business International, the Brock School of Business has excellent professors in the department as well as a thriving educational structure. The small class sizes allowed Olivia Allensworth, a junior entrepreneurship major, to build relationships with these professors and soak up everything they had to offer.

“The Brock School of Business has quickly become a foundational part of my life and career,” Allensworth said. “It has allowed me to build intentional relationships with the amazing professors, have constant access to incredible networking opportunities and even the opportunity to be a resident in the incubator with my nonprofit. All of these things have and continue to push me to be the best I can be and readily equip me for the career I feel called to.”

It was apparent that the professors not only valued an exceptional education, but also faith, which they incorporated in the classroom.

“The Business School has effortlessly taught me how to merge business and faith,” said junior pre-business major Will Smith. “My classes have focused on the business side but more importantly they have taught me to put my faith into my work and that it will be blessed by God regardless of what career I end up in.”

Students are proud to graduate from the Brock School of Business. Not only do exceptional professors embody it, but the courses also train the students adequately for the business world and inspire them to pursue their aspirations.

“I’m really excited to graduate under the name of the Brock School of Business and to go into the business world with the foundation that past graduates have laid down for me,” said junior management major Sarah Tomei, “so I can represent them well and look back someday knowing I was part of all that.”

The Brock School of Business continues to equip students for what lies ahead as it spawns the acknowledged entrepreneurs of tomorrow.

*Article by Emilie White*

*Photos by Alyssa Hall*



*Anniversary Fact:* The Brock School of Business was established in 1965 and was accredited by the AACSB in 1999.





# School of Education

The Orlean Bullard Beeson School of Education was ranked number four in the South for Regional Universities according to a list in U.S. News & World Report. The department received a 100 percent pass rate on the National Undergraduate Praxis II Licensure Tests in the past and 99 percent of students were placed in jobs within three months of graduation.

Their mission was “to guide, develop and challenge students academically, professionally, personally and spiritually to prepare leaders who will positively influence and shape society.”

“My experience as Dean of the Orlean Beeson School of Education is an incredible one,” said Dean Jeanie Box. “In my opinion, education is perhaps the most important work that a society can do. Our students, faculty, and staff are an inspiration to me on a daily basis. I am surrounded by people who are committed to quality teaching, research, and outreach, ensuring that we offer the best preparation for undergraduate and graduate students seeking a career in teaching, leadership and working with families.”

Professors, faculty and staff at the Orlean Bullard Beeson School of Education make up a strong team that cares deeply about the success of their students in the classroom and in the world.

“Our professors become like our family,” said Abby Frady, a senior early childhood education major. “They look after us and care about not only our education but our lives outside of school. They share not only wisdom but spiritual truth. There are still days I will go into their offices and just vent about

my day and they are there to encourage me.”

Professors placed students in schools all over Birmingham to ensure they had beneficial clinical experiences to grow as professionals.

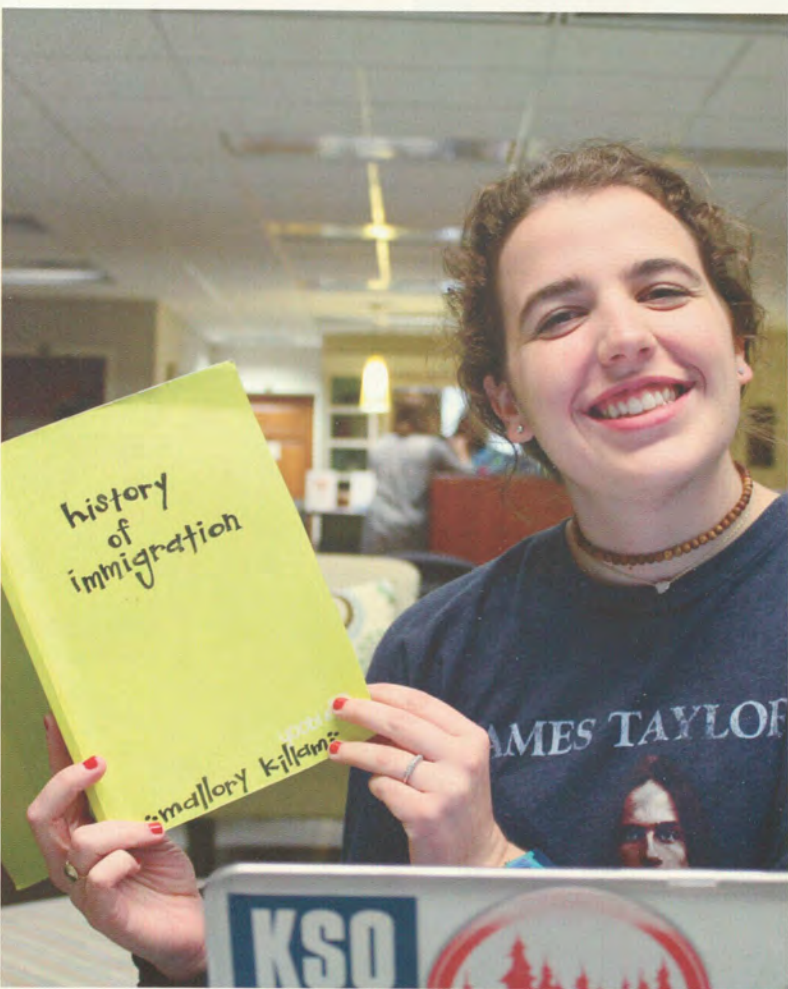
“The workload is sometimes overwhelming, but every assignment and project is implemented to make us more successful in the classroom,” senior early childhood education major Dabney Chitwood said. “As a senior, I am sad to leave the program. However, it is changing a lot and I can’t wait to see how it improves throughout the years.”

*Article by Hannah Garrett*

*Photos by Alyssa Hall*







*Anniversary Fact:*  
 The Orlean Bullard Beeson School of Education was established in 1915. Students celebrated its 100th anniversary in 2015.



# College of Health Sciences





The College of Health Sciences consists of several major departments: Cardiopulmonary Sciences including a major in respiratory care; Communication Sciences and Disorders; Kinesiology and its seven preceding majors; and Physical Therapy. The school recently expanded and added the Public Health department that includes a major in health care administration. Also included in the College of Health Sciences are the Schools of Nursing, Pharmacy and Food and Nutrition.

The College of Health Sciences experienced several recent changes as classes were moved into the beautiful new Southern Progress building.

“CHS is like no other place on campus,” said junior health sciences major Sophie Schwarze. “I love all the windows, woods and water. It’s a relaxing environment that gives me a whole new perspective on a school environment.”

The new building was not only a wonderful aesthetic addition but also provided the necessary space for all of the health classes’ needs. The addition of simulation labs were especially helpful for the School of Nursing.

“One of my favorite parts of the new CHS building is the simulation labs,” said junior nursing major Kaitlyn Hamil. “They have allowed a new kind of hands-on learning, making it easier to apply the knowledge we learn in class to how we will use it in our future nursing career.”

The new facility also included large kitchens that could be used by the food prep classes – an exciting addition for the food and nutrition majors.

The College of Health Sciences was also known for its exceptional professors.

“My favorite part of being in the College of Health Sciences is that the professors are truly invested in your success,” said junior health sciences major Cara Warren. “They are willing to help you in any way they can and are constantly going out of their way to make you a better student.”

For students interested in a degree in the healthcare field, with a new building and the experienced professors, the College of Health Sciences is an increasingly attractive option.

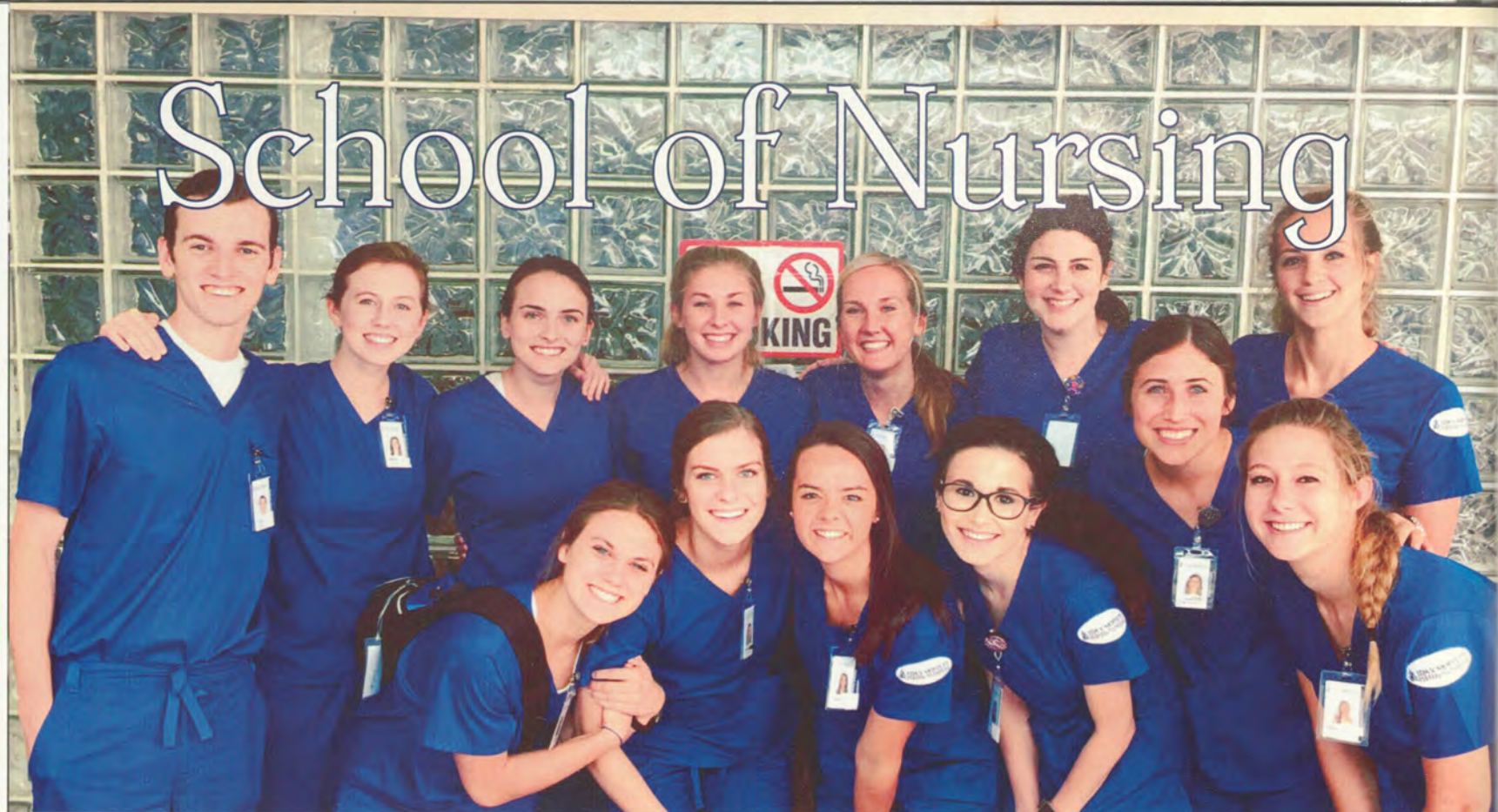
*Article by Emilie White*

*Photos by Chris Kawell*



**Anniversary Fact:** The College of Health Sciences was established in 2013, but some of its programs date back as far as 1922.





# School of Nursing

The Ida V. Moffett nursing program continues to be one of the most prestigious in the nation. With its Christian mission, 8-1 student-faculty ratio, hands-on experiences, local internships, medical mission trips, advanced technology and the addition of the new College of Health Sciences building, Samford nursing students receive one of the best nursing educations in the country.

"Samford's nursing school will prepare me to approach nursing from a Biblical worldview while teaching me to honor and model Christ in my profession," said freshman nursing major Jud Tarence. "It exemplifies that nursing is more than just a profession; it's a ministry. It is an honor to be a part of Ida V. Moffett's legacy of integrity, Christian values, service, leadership and compassion."

There were opportunities such as medical mission trips that allowed students to receive the hands-on experience required for their field.

"The opportunities to go on mission trips were one of the features that drew me to Samford," said sophomore nursing major Caroline Cannon. "I hope to go on the summer trip to Peru to help those who have never received any type of healthcare."

Throughout the year, many students participated in The Chandler Mountain Project, volunteered as "victims" for a Birmingham Airport disaster drill and volunteered as patients for the Birmingham Regional EMS System Advanced Trauma Life Support course.

The new CHS building houses four schools. The nursing program set its eighth consecutive record – 80% of the 5,471 enrolled students are currently nursing majors. The building contains over 30 state-of-the-art clinical and research labs, including a 22,000-square-foot simulation center.

"When Samford built the new CHS building, it became the new top-of-the-line standard for other nursing schools to model," said senior nursing major Margaret Hehir. "Having good facilities and advanced simulation labs allows nursing students to practice real-life high-risk scenarios without putting an actual patient's life on the line."

A dedication ceremony for the new building at its facilities was held on Sept. 9.

"Today we stand in one of the greatest healthcare education facilities in the world," said Dr. Andrew Westmoreland during the ceremony. "It is more than we dared to dream."

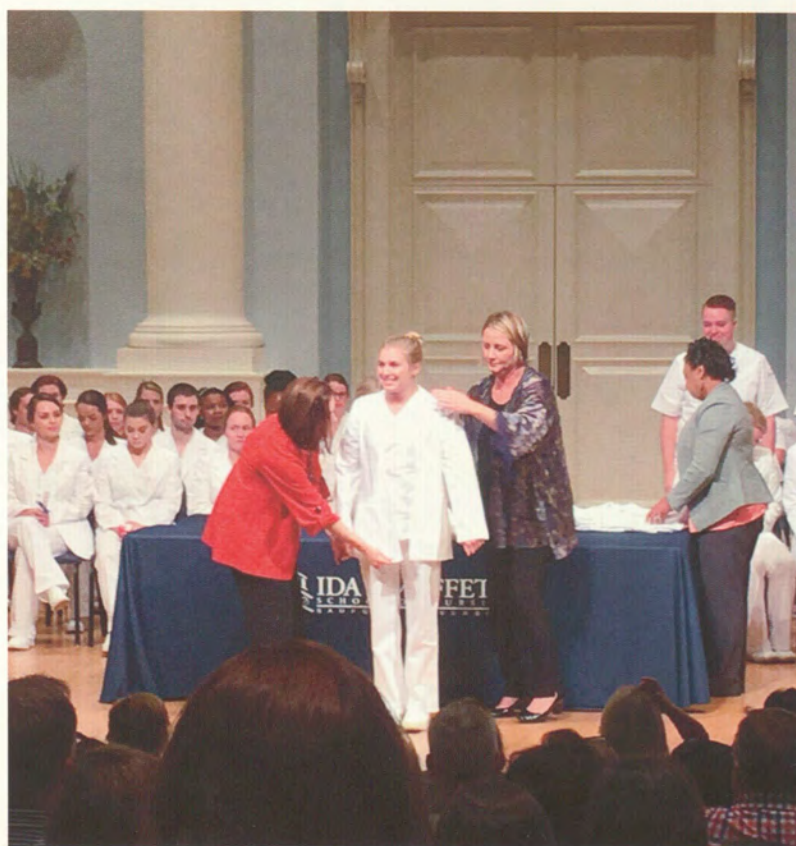
With top-notch facilities and faculty, the Ida V. Moffett school will continue to prosper for years to come.

*Article by Katie Roth*

*Photos by Alyssa Hall and Chris Kawell*



*Anniversary Fact:* The Ida V. Moffett School of Nursing was established in 1922 and offers both undergraduate and graduate degrees.





# School of Pharmacy

As of fall 2016, Samford's McWhorter School of Pharmacy had an enrollment of 481 students. In the past five years, the school has had a 91 percent on-time graduation rate and 97 percent of graduates received job offers within six months of graduation.

From its establishment in 1927, McWhorter School of Pharmacy believed that student fellowship and friendship are important elements of the college experience. Students have had the opportunity to get involved in two student-run organizations, in which they could form both friendly and professional relationships with their peers. Some of the organizations are very generalized, such as Rho Chi, the pharmacy school honor society. But others are catered to students' chosen track in the field of pharmacy, such as clinical practice or pediatrics.

The Pediatric Pharmacy Advocacy Group is a national organization of pharmacists that seek to improve the health of children. The student chapter at McWhorter School of Pharmacy is one of the most prominent groups in the department. It helps future pharmacists learn innovative ways to care for pediatric patients and see deeper into a career in pediatric pharmacy. McWhorter's PPAG chapter is very active in the Birmingham area, including hosting education sessions in local high schools.

"We are recording video segments to show at our education sessions that will help to show high school students the diversity of careers in the field of pharmacy," PPAG president Sara Brown, a third-year pharmacy student, said.

The segments were filmed in a conversational style between two students, each segment covering a different type of pharmacy practice, such as community, research, hospital or ambulatory care.

"These video clips will help serve one of our group's many purposes of educating adolescents on the many opportunities pharmacy practice presents, and hopefully recruit some future pharmacists in the process," club sponsor Dr. Mary

Worthington said. The education sessions also serve the purpose of getting adolescents to become their own health advocates.

"PPAG is one of our most active student organizations. The members work hard to develop ways to help young adults learn how to not only care for themselves, but for others in their lives," said Dr. Renee DeHart, the Associate Dean of Student Affairs at McWhorter. "This is so vital to the PPAG members, because they're learning ways to help adolescents that will benefit them in their practice of pharmacy."

Pharmacy students are heavily involved in the classwork of their department, but dedicate their time to greater causes, too.

*Article and photos by Jenny Lynn Davis*







*Anniversary Fact:*  
The McWhorter School of Pharmacy, established in 1927, was named after Samford pharmacy graduate Clayton McWhorter.



# University Fellows





The Samford University Fellows program is a Great Books program that admits approximately 40 students per year. They take several unique and strategic courses in the Western Intellectual Tradition where they read texts from Ancient Greece and Rome all the way to the 20th century. In addition, they take classical rhetoric, philosophy of science, biblical studies and a course in the classical Christian virtues.

"We get to continue some of the greatest conversations from the past through our interactions with the Great Books," said junior English and classics major Bailey Bridgeman. "When we discuss these great ideas with one another, we develop a better understanding of the world, ourselves and our relationship with others."

All Fellows received a scholarship to study abroad for three weeks in Rome and Florence during their sophomore year. Fellows had several additional opportunities such as summer research funding, an undergraduate research journal and additional funding for other study abroad opportunities throughout their time at Samford.

"The Fellows program has enhanced my college experience," Bridgeman said. "The small class size provides the opportunity for Fellows to develop lasting relationships with one another. It's a privilege to be apart of a community where we can discuss topics that have shaped the Western world. Further, we have special access to a variety of the best professors on campus."

Professors took pride in their students and worked hard to develop curriculums and a positive experience for students and the university.

"The University Fellow program provides an honors college experience for intellectually curious, ambitious students who want to make connections across disciplines," said Caroline Janeway, associate director of the University Fellows. "Our goal is for our students to not only make these connections within the program, but also in their own chosen majors as well as in any international study or fellowships in which they may participate."

Elizabeth Kolakoski, admission and program coordinator, said, "It is truly a joy to see students come in from the admission perspective and then have the opportunity to watch them grow each year within their program."

*Article by Hannah Garrett*

*Photos by Hannah Garrett and Chris Kawell*



**Anniversary Fact:** In 2007, the Alabama Power Foundation made an investment in the University Fellows program for competitive grants.



# Study Abroad

*Anniversary Fact:* The Daniel House, the study abroad housing unit in London, is a 150-year-old Victorian home that was purchased in 1983 and houses students year-round.

Opportunities for educational growth at Samford go beyond the classroom, across oceans and into other countries and cultures. Throughout the year, students scattered the globe studying abroad in various countries.

"I think study abroad trips are about expanding student's horizons," said Will Higgins, a senior classics and political science major. Higgins studied in London, Greece, Barcelona and Rome where he gained invaluable knowledge that enhanced his academic courses at Samford.

"While I'm at Samford, I'm aware of the wider context," Higgins said. "I'm able to take the things I've learned in the classroom and apply them."

Anne Davis Parks, a sophomore journalism and mass communication and English major, spent a JanTerm studying Spanish in Costa Rica.

"I thought I knew what Central America was like, but actually going to a residential area and living with a family gave me a real experience of life in Costa Rica," Parks said. On the evenings of her trip, Parks returned to her host home where she was able to immediately put her studies into practice by speaking Spanish with her host family.

Junior journalism and mass communication major Victoria Shelton spent an entire semester studying abroad in London.

"Study abroad exposed me to being independent," Shelton said. In addition to taking classes, Shelton did an internship in London where she had to commute through



the city, report to an office and get herself to work.

"Now coming back, I see a difference in myself and I have a better sense of cultural awareness and others around me," said Shelton.

Studying abroad is an invaluable experience for Samford students like no other. They leave with enthusiasm and expectations to return with a wealth of new knowledge, cultural immersion and memories to last a lifetime.

*Article by Olivia Halverson*

*Photos contributed by Olivia Halverson and Ryland Lovvorn*





# Honorary Groups



Samford is home to many honors organizations that recognize students and faculty for outstanding achievements in their academic endeavors. There are freshman honor societies, school-specific groups and leadership groups such as Kappa Phi.

"Our bylaws specify certain conditions for membership," said Phi Kappa Phi advisor Dr. Dennis Sansom. "Seniors must be in the upper 10 percent of their class, juniors in the upper 7.5 percent and employees must be scholars of great distinction."

Most Phi Kappa Phi members at Samford were also members of one or more other honors organizations.

"I was honored to be inducted into Phi Kappa Phi, as well as the Gamma Sigma Alpha and Order of Omega organizations this year," said Kaitlin Mullen, a junior history major. "The pursuit of academic excellence is the highest honor bestowed upon collegiate students, and I am honored to use my academic success to impact society."

The many honors organizations on Samford's campus are vast in purpose and included members of many disciplines across all academic fields. It was an honor for students and faculty to be inducted in any of the distinguished groups.

*Article by Jenny Lynn Davis*

*Photos by Jenny Lynn Davis and Katie Roth*



## *Notable Honorary Groups:*

Alpha Epsilon Delta  
Alpha Lambda Delta  
Alpha Psi Omega  
Beta Alpha Psi  
Beta Beta Beta  
Beta Gamma Sigma  
Dobro Slovo  
Gamma Sigma Alpha  
Kappa Delta Pi  
Kappa Tau Alpha  
Mu Kappa Tau  
Omicron Delta Kappa  
Omicron Delta Epsilon  
Order of Omega  
Phi Alpha Theta  
Phi Kappa Phi  
Rho Chi / Phi Lambda Sigma  
Phi Sigma Tau  
Sigma Delta Pi  
Sigma Tau Delta  
Theta Alpha Kappa



# ORGANIZATIONS

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Tours, Preview Days and admissions events were just a few of the things that the Samford Recruitment Team was involved with throughout the year. Acting as representatives of the Admissions Office, SRT members worked to showcase Samford to prospective students. Many of the organization members gave weekly tours and worked alongside other Samford departments during fall and spring Preview Days.

"SRT has given me an avenue to pursue things that I love. One of those things is my love for relationships with others," said Carter Jackson, a senior journalism and mass communication major. "The most rewarding part about being an SRT member was the simple, genuine 'thank you' from a parent who you know had been praying for their child to make a decision where to attend college. SRT gave me the opportunity to share my love for Samford with those who were looking for a university to call home."

SRT members also had the opportunity to hold officer positions. Students were chosen to fill various roles like president, vice president and secretary.

"Being vice president of the Samford Recruitment Team this past year has taught me a lot," said junior finance major Chris Cooper. "I have learned so much about planning, working well and communicating with others, and a greater appreciation of Samford for all of the amazing things that students and faculty are doing on and off campus everyday."

In addition to giving weekly tours, SRT members manned registration tables at events for the Office of Admissions, assisted with admission sessions and led small group information sessions regarding student life at Samford.

"My favorite part of leading students on the team was watching them grow and develop in their communication skills and personal confidence," said Assistant Director of Recruitment Jenn DeBrecht. "Our team is made up of students from virtually every area of campus, so their perspective and insight is invaluable."

Samford Recruitment Team members provided the campus with invaluable services throughout the year and worked hard to be an example for all prospective Samford students.

*Article by Stephen DeFrancesco*

*Photos contributed by Taylor Glow and Chris Kawell*



*Anniversary Fact:* The Samford Recruitment Team is highly selective and chooses members to act as hosts and hostesses of the university.





# Ambassadors

The Samford Ambassadors are handpicked after receiving a nomination and partaking in a rigorous selection process. This year brought the active participation of 32 ambassadors in the program, who served as an extension of the president's office. They assisted with special events, acted as liaisons between Samford and its constituents, and represented the university.

However, it was not the job description that made the program unique. Instead, it was the diverse individuals who made up the program and the exceptional community it fostered.

"One unique aspect of the Samford ambassador community is that we hold each other to a higher standard," senior biology major Annie Smith said. "We know what is expected of us and we help each other to serve with excellence. Since it is a small group, we get to know each other personally and it is a joy to serve, but it's even better to serve alongside your friends."

Although the ambassadors work diligently, sophomore communication studies major Sarah Margaret Spivey said the "honor of (serving) Samford and its surrounding community" is much greater than what may initially seem like a small task.

Allison Strickland, the Coordinator of Alumni Programs and Legacy League, advised and worked with the ambassadors daily. Strickland said the most rewarding aspect of the ambassador program is that the student ambassadors get "a holistic picture of the importance of university advancement as a whole, whether it be funding, alumni relations or academics."

These students often do behind-the-scenes work that many individuals do not see.

One of the rewards of being an ambassador is the immense network students are exposed to. Whether alumni, donors or friends of the university, the connections are endless and are continuously manifested in the many ways the

ambassadors serve.

"I have heard it said many times by Dr. Westmoreland that we walk in the shade of trees we did not plant," Smith said. "I have met those who attended Samford before the trees lined the sidewalk by Brooks. I have heard stories of when the divinity school was a boy's dorm. It is wonderful to meet others who share my love for Samford, even though their Samford story began many years before mine."

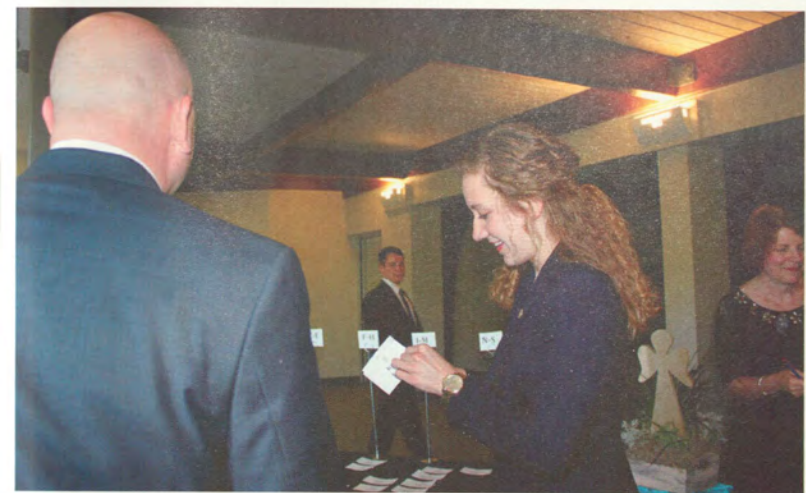
The Samford Ambassadors spread the university legacy daily through their hard work and commitment.

*Article by Natascha Anderson*

*Photos by Jenny Lynn Davis*







*Anniversary Fact:*  
The Samford Ambassadors have served the university since 1996.



# Global Organizations





Global Connections is an annual event put on by the Global Engagement Office and the International Club. It involved a multitude of clubs and people across campus who turned Ben Brown Plaza into an around-the-world food and culture festival in an effort to celebrate and spread awareness of the different cultures represented at Samford.

“Global Connections (is) a brilliant way to bring the different cultures from around the world that are represented on campus into the forefront of the university's community,” said Michael Pyefinch, an exchange student from the United Kingdom. “To see so many people from so many different walks of life come together and share what makes them the way they are is a truly humbling experience.”

This year's fair was divided into five sections corresponding to different regions overseen by the university's International Ambassadors. Represented were Europe, China and Australia, Africa, South Asia and the Middle East, and Latin America and the Caribbean. Junior business major Brock Fogle and sophomore pre-architecture major Ben Toure organized the Europe section with help from Spain and London study abroad students. Senior global studies major Claire Blackmon and junior international relations major Cameron Teaney led the charge for the Chinese and Australian representatives.

“I have been able to help see two annual Global Connections Fairs come together now, and it has been a whirlwind culminating in an outrageously rewarding event,” said Blackmon.

Senior history major Nathan Graham brought together students and community members from Africa to put on a display of the continent's diverse cultures, including an African dance performance.

Sophomore secondary education major Bella McLay organized the South Asia and Middle East representation at a table complete with hummus, chai tea and henna. The Latin America and Caribbean students joined the Latino Student Organization and the Spanish Club.

Overall, the event was a success with great food and lots of learning.

“It was great to hear everyone talking about all of the different foods and people they were able to meet through Global Connections,” said junior business major Parker Millican. “I think it is important to learn more about different cultures to understand just how diverse God has created His Kingdom to be.”

*Article by Lexi Gilbert*

*Photos by Hallie King*



**Anniversary Fact:** The Global Connections fair featured student groups and campus clubs such as the Spanish, French and German Clubs.



# Latino Student Organization

Samford's Latino Student Organization, or LSO, has been creating community between Latino students since 2014.

LSO was officially established as a student organization during the 2015-2016 academic year, making Samford more like home for its members.

Nyeedra Davis, a senior English major, described the organization as being "a home for Latino students and those alike who want to know more about the culture."

The organization's main goal is to integrate Latino students into the community at Samford and have a place to convene together. For students involved who are not of Latino origin, it is an organization intended for learning, understanding and acceptance of Latino culture.

"I know personally it has made me more conscious of things," said Davis. "I like it because we are family. No matter your race or nationality, everyone is welcoming."

Edgar Flores, a junior computer science major, agreed.

"The LSO to me is a judge-free place," Flores said. "In this organization, I can embrace my Mexican culture without the fear of being rejected."

Flores added that LSO supplies a "great outlet" for Samford student interaction with Latino culture.

Just this year, LSO hosted nine events. Among them were celebrations of Dia de los Muertos and Cinco de Mayo, Global Connections in South America, a Latin Night complete with Latin music and dancing, and Entre Nous

various bonding events such as soccer and movie nights.

For the 2017-2018 school year, Flores will co-chair the Latino Student Organization alongside Joyce Diamond. After the fun and success of this year, the LSO future is expected to be a bright one.

*Article by Caroline Carmichael*

*Photos by Hallie King*

*Photos contributed by Haillie Bowles*







*Anniversary Fact:*  
After its founding in 2014, LSO won the Outstanding New Student Organization award in the 2016 Student Organization Awards.



# Student Government Association

SAMFORD UNIVERSITY

SGA

STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION



The Student Government Association actively works to better campus life and the students' experiences every year.

SGA is separated into five branches, each with an appointed member of the Student Executive Board: executive, legislative, judicial, development and activities. Each of these branches offered numerous opportunities for students to get involved with SGA and strive to improve the university.

"Everyone can be involved with SGA, whether they are in office or not," said freshman Senate member and communication studies major Mary Anna Brand. "It's important because SGA gives students an opportunity to have a voice in making our school a better place each day."

Some of the ways SGA improved the campus were by working with organizations and clubs to allocate funds, launching campus-wide events such as Welcome Back Week, reviewing student values violations and improving cultural awareness. This year, SGA initiated a student-motivated change after receiving feedback regarding the new shuttle system. With this feedback, SGA worked with the students to establish a new route.

SGA President and senior finance major Porter Rivers hopes that with consistent participation and ongoing projects, SGA "will continue to expand its growth." Whether that be physical size or the diversity of the students involved, Rivers said, "It is exciting to have seen my freshman year election go from uncontested to having a large number of students run against one another."

To students interested in getting involved in any of the many opportunities SGA offers, junior judiciary council member and mathematics major Moriah Stice said, "Go for it. SGA is an organization in which not only are you able to grow but also learn as an individual." SGA will continue to evolve and benefit the student body.

*Article by Natascha Anderson*

*Photos by Hallie King and Katie Roth*



**Anniversary Fact:** The current Student Body Constitution was put in place in 2011 and is still in effect today.





The Student Activities Council planned and executed campus-wide events and programs throughout the year, beginning during the first week of fall semester classes. SAC allowed students to assume leadership roles within the campus community and to be the voices of fellow students.

"It has been a blast serving on SAC, especially during Welcome Back Week," said junior management major Aimee Dykes. "It is so fun to see everyone and help welcome in the new students. In my experience, Welcome Back Week gets students out on Ben Brown and allows them to reconnect with friends and maybe even make new friends."

SAC had continual influence on the campus experience throughout the year. Following Welcome Back Week, SAC promoted the first Harry's Coffeehouse concert of the year featuring Chris Moyse and Emily Keil. They later welcomed in the fall season with pumpkin bowling and a popcorn bar in Ben Brown. SAC worked to fill the hours between classes with fun activities for students to participate in together.

"Serving at Samford through SAC has been, in a word, incredible," said junior early childhood education major Morgan Quisenberry. "One of my favorite things, other than helping create and execute events that bring smiles to faces, is working with my co-director and committee. Brainstorming new crazy, creative, out-of-the-box ideas with them and seeing our visions come to life on campus has certainly been a highlight of serving my university in this capacity."

SAC continued serving the Samford community throughout the spring semester with the annual Easter Egg Hunt on the quad. Following the Easter Egg Hunt were musical performances by Coin and The Ratio. They closed out the year with Summer Send-Off, offering three days of activities in Ben Brown to finish the semester.

"SAC is a great opportunity to work with people from all areas of campus," said senior human development and family life major Julia Jackson. "Through SAC, I have met some amazing people and I have loved giving back in small ways to the school and the community that have given me so much over the past few years."

*Article by Kristen Jackson*

*Photos by Hallie King*



*Anniversary Fact: Popular SAC events include Welcome Back Week, Harry's Concerts, the Easter Egg Hunt and Summer Send-Off.*





# Model United Nations

Model United Nations was a collegiate activity geared toward making students better global citizens and activists. The Samford MUN team traveled internationally to represent a variety of nations in simulating international cooperation over global issues.

In the fall, Samford MUN traveled to Greece, with each student representing a different country. This offered an added challenge in not being able to share research among the school, but the participants thoroughly enjoyed their time at the conference where they interacted with students of varied national backgrounds.

"It was a great experience to debate about global issues and work together with different people from different places to get to a consensus about the issues," said senior language and world trade major and head delegate Juliana Guzman.

Through this conference, Samford MUN got a global experience in a global activity, which augmented the educational aspects of Model United Nations as a whole.

In the spring, Samford MUN went to New York City for NMUN 2017. Everyone represented Djibouti in a variety of committees and delegates tackled a variety of topics such as natural disaster response, green economies, illegal wildlife trading and nuclear power in the Middle East.

"(The conference) was definitely overwhelming at first, and took me a while to understand what to do and how to effectively put forth my ideas," said junior international relations major Cameron Teaney. "However, with each committee meeting I became more confident with my opinions and sharing them with others. It was cool to see myself grow in a way, and I felt a sense of accomplishment once the conference was over."

"I learned much through MUN," said sophomore music major Carly Davis, "and it's an experience I would recommend to anyone who has the opportunity."

*Article by Jamie Davenport*

*Photos contributed by Carly Davis*

*Anniversary Fact: Samford participates in one national and one international Model UN conference every year amongst 400,000 other students worldwide.*





# Debate Team

For the six students who made up the debate team, they were much more than an academic team. They were a small family. From their frequent Taco Bell runs to planning a playful musical to their chalkboard dedicated entirely to memorable quotes from other team members, they enjoyed the supportive community that competing together established.

The debate team has been an on-campus program almost as long as Samford has been a university. Much like years prior, this year's debate team consisted of only a few students, but sophomore international relations major Jamie Davenport said that "doesn't hold us back from competing and winning against teams from schools like Vanderbilt and Emory."

The debate program challenged students as it required them to think critically, defend their views with accurate research and maintain confidence in tense situations.

Aside from the program's academic rewards, sophomore philosophy major Moriah Windus said

Samford debate was unique from other debate programs because "the coaches genuinely cared how everyone on the team was doing."

Windus also attributed the uniqueness of Samford's program to the welcoming environment for those who have no debate experience.

Although the debate team traveled and occasionally missed school to participate in tournaments, senior political science major Marley Davis said it was worth it.

"Debate allows you to meet students from a variety of backgrounds," Davis said. "Each brings their own perspective to debate and often argue from viewpoints that you may be unaware of. Learning about these new perspectives allows students to step outside the Samford bubble and gain a better understanding of current and past philosophical and political ideas."

*Article by Natascha Anderson*

*Photo contributed by Jamie Davenport*



*Anniversary Fact* Samford joined the National Debate Tournament in 1954 and still competes in the national competition as well as other local tournaments.



# Samford Democrats

*Anniversary Fact:* In April 2017, the Samford Democrats launched the first edition of the Samford University College Democrats Monthly Newsletter.

The Samford Democrats continued their lively activism and drive for progress on campus this year. Early in the fall, they hosted a political debate alongside the Samford Students for Liberty and the College Republicans.

In October, members joined the state-wide effort to canvas for Hillary Clinton in Tallahassee, Florida.

Jillian Fantin, a sophomore political science major, said that through these efforts they were “increasing voter turnout and expanding opportunities for minorities and women, which made the entire experience worthwhile.”

They assisted with the voter registration drive before the election. Further, Samford Democrats hosted an election watch party while results were rolling in.

In early spring, they traveled to Mississippi to march for workers’ rights at the Nissan Plant alongside Sen. Bernie Sanders. They also participated in the local Civil Rights March in remembrance of the efforts of Martin Luther King Jr. and sent representatives to the Women’s Leadership Conference to increase the

prominence of women in politics.

Samford Democrats had a good showing at the Alabama College Democrats Spring Convention with two members voted into state positions. At the convention, Fantin was elected ACD Political Director and sophomore political science major Isaac DeWitt was elected ACD Membership Director.

The organization successfully promoted awareness for causes that they care about as well as general political activism.

“Being a member of Samford Democrats has allowed me to meet intelligent and passionate students with whom I can discuss political topics and improve the community,” said sophomore communication studies major Robbie Nikont.

Through Samford Democrats, students explored the political spectrum and began to take advantage of the political opportunities afforded to them.

*Article by Jamie Davenport*

*Photos by Carolyn Smith*





# College Republicans



With the election being one of the biggest events of the year, the College Republicans participated in a debate with the Samford Democrats and Libertarians to bring Samford students an idea of each party's stance.

The three topics of the debate were foreign policy, gun control and immigration. Junior political science major Kaitlin Mullen represented the College Republicans and took strong stances on these positions. She used a relatable analogy to discuss immigration and emphasized her stance on foreign policy and alliances.

Both the Samford Democrats and the College Republicans hope for more debates in the future.

"We want to do more of these next semester and after the election," said sophomore political science major Isaac DeWitt.

The purpose of College Republicans, alongside



the Samford Democrats and Libertarians, is to allow students the freedom to explore their beliefs alongside others around them. They encourage students to challenge themselves and form their own opinions on important issues.

"It is good for students to come and know what each party represents," said freshman political science major Jillian Fantin.

The event ended with questions from the audience. Donuts were shared with visitors after the debate. In a spirit of collaboration, students from all political parties were amenable and open to discussion.

Though they may not all agree on politics, the Samford Libertarians, Democrats and College Republicans are excited for their next debate and hope to continually see bigger crowds.

*Article and photos by Carolyn Smith*

*Anniversary Fact: Samford's College Republicans is one of 14 chapters in the College Republican Federation of Alabama.*



# Air Force ROTC

The Air Force Reserve Officer Training Corps program's goal is to allow students to receive US Air Force training while pursuing a college education. The different sections within the program include General Military Course and Professional Officer's Course. GMC allows freshmen and sophomores to experience classes and training without fully committing to the program. If they choose to complete field training, they are accepted into the POC as cadets for their junior and senior years.

"It's easier knowing that I don't have to know right away if this is for me," said freshman interior design major Reigan Vargo. "It gives me time to make sure it's what I want to do because it is a four to six-year commitment after college. Obviously, military isn't for everybody, but it teaches many good life lessons and will help you move forward in your life and succeed in the career workforce."

Training as a POC requires about four hours of training per week in a leadership laboratory and physical training. All AFROTC members are required to complete a Physical Fitness Assessment at the beginning of each semester, which included crunches, push-ups and a one and a half mile run.

After receiving a perfect score on his PFA, sophomore pre-business major Pete Flemming took the Oath of Enlistment in October and received an Air Force Scholarship.

"One thing that is constantly drilled into us is the Air Force Core Values: 'Integrity First, Service Before Self and Excellence in All We Do'," said Flemming. "Hearing that motto and seeing how senior cadets live by it has really inspired me to apply those values to my own life."

Members found time to participate in many other community service and student development opportunities as well, including park clean-ups, local Daughters of the American

Revolution events and canned food drives for Jimmie Hale Mission. Detachment 012 also sponsored November's Red, White and Blue 5K and Fun Run. These exciting events aside, members most enjoyed forming relationships with other like-minded individuals.

"I have been blessed to know and train alongside some of the most amazing people I have ever met," said Catie Doerger, a sophomore global studies major. "Through (AF)ROTC, I found a community of people whose goal is to make a difference in the lives around them, in our country and, for some, around the world. There really is no other group of people like them on campus."

*Article by Katie Roth*

*Photos by Stephen DeFrancesco*







*Anniversary Fact:*  
The Samford AFROTC detachment  
has been active since 1972 and  
trains students at multiple colleges  
in northern Alabama.



# Black Student Union

*Anniversary Fact:* The Black Student Union has been an active student organization for over 30 years and its 2016-17 theme was "Cultivate, Create and Celebrate!"

The Black Student Union is an organization that strives to break down the dividers between races and increase diversity.

"BSU is not just a Black Student Union like everyone thinks it is," said Rick Charles, sophomore pre-business major and BSU public relations chair. "It is really another way to get all students on campus to get involved and connect with each other."

In order to accomplish this, BSU hosted charity events that were open to everyone. These events helped bring awareness of its presence on campus as well as reveal its aim to impact the student body. It was important to the members that all students felt welcome at their events, not just African Americans.

"BSU has served as a very critical part in the unifying of the student body of Samford's campus," president Robyn Thomas said. "Something that we always say is that BSU isn't just for the black students, it's for all Samford students. And we sincerely mean that."

BSU provided community and a sense of belonging for African American students on campus.

"BSU really helps me fit in and lets me know that you can be an African American student that cares about the school," said Levi Edwards, a sophomore journalism and mass communication major and member of BSU. He added that BSU also helps better diversify and unify the school.



"BSU has impacted me in such a major way," Thomas said. "I love this organization so much. It has been a true honor to serve as president for such a dynamic organization."

Charles agreed, adding, "It's really been a fun and learning experience to be part of BSU."

*Article by Emilie White*

*Photos by Sarah Ferrell*



Entre Nous



Organizations



# Student Media



Samford has numerous student-run media platforms publishing new content at various times throughout the year.

The Bulldog Blitz athletics show was the newest student media organization with new episodes premiering every Thursday night.

"The Blitz's purpose is to bring the Samford student body and community up to date with Samford Athletics, as well as highlight key coaches and players from the week's prior events," said sophomore journalism and mass communication major and Bulldog Blitz anchor Kelsey Royalty.

The Crimson, Samford's newspaper, informed students about happenings in and around campus.

"The Crimson serves as a platform for student ideas, events and opinions," said Megan Walker, opinions editor and senior journalism and mass communication major. "We put in a lot of hours each week reaching out to writers, editing articles and laying out the paper." A new edition of The Crimson was placed on newsstands every Thursday.

The Local magazine was published biannually, building experience for journalism students in producing engaging and polished content. The students also produced content for the Sojourn photojournalism magazine.

"This magazine was very much a collaborative effort and the unity of our team allowed us to produce a magazine that we are all very proud of," said Claire Jagers, junior journalism and mass communication major and editor-in-chief of The Local.

Samford News Network familiarized students with a working newsroom environment to execute the show in new episodes released every seven to 10 days.

SNN anchor and junior JMC major Hannah Diamond said the most rewarding aspect of working in student media is "learning from older students and working closely with professors to contribute to many special projects."

These publications, alongside *Entre Nous*, allowed students to be involved and work diligently to keep the student body informed.

*Article by Jenny Lynn Davis*

*Photos by Sarah Ferrell*



*Anniversary Fact:* The Local and Bulldog Blitz are the two newest student media platforms.

The Local has published 4 editions and Bulldog Blitz has run since September 2016.



# Restoring Eden

*Anniversary Fact:* Restoring Eden was formed in the early 1990s as Christians for Environmental Stewardship and changed its name in 2001 to reflect its Biblical perspective.

Restoring Eden educates the student population about the impact people have on the environment. It is a movement of like-minded people who see a strong connection between Christian spirituality and people's roles as caretakers of creation. The organization emphasizes three major ways to engage in stewardship of God's creation: love, serve and protect.

The organization, made up of 12 members, convened several times for meetings and events. They partnered with other local groups such as Friends of Shades Creek to participate in creek cleanups, hikes, canoe trips and more. The Shades Creek Cleanup was one of the more popular events.

"It lets us be involved with the community and always makes me smile knowing I am doing something good," said junior biology major Marisa Garrett.

Students were involved for a variety of reasons.

"I decided to be involved so I could get a different perspective and also learn more about issues that maybe I wouldn't have thought of in the first place," Hope Reamer, a senior environmental science major, said.

Students were involved in the happenings of the local community, which benefits citizens in both the present and the future.

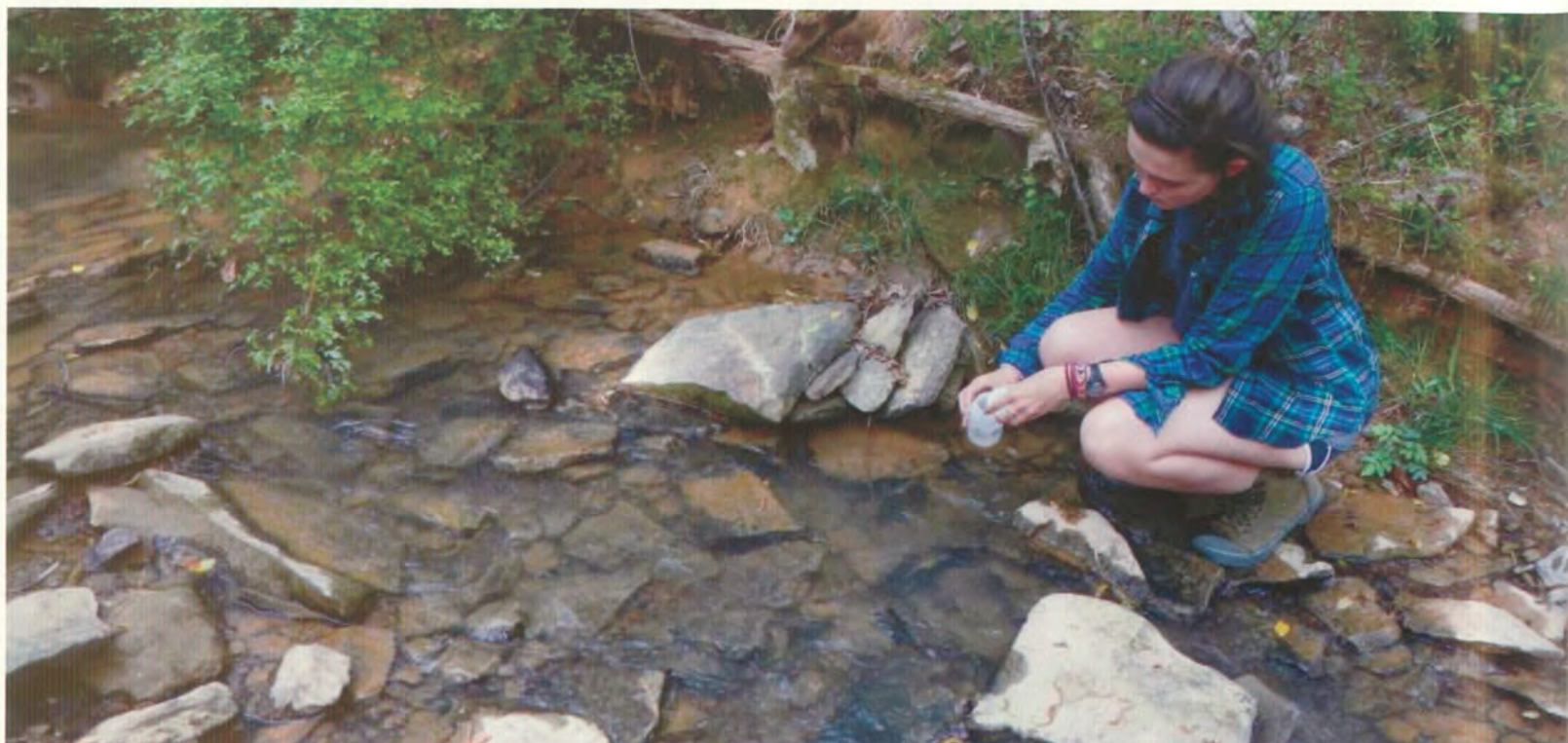
"This benefits everyone from plants to animals to people we see everyday," Garrett said.

Restoring Eden also held panel discussions about environmental issues. Through discussion, students learned more about problems the nation currently faces. With climate change and general societal issues, it is critical to remove human detriments in the environment and reverse them as much as possible.

"Mitigating what our society is doing to the earth seems like a pretty solid ethical responsibility," freshman international relations major Jamie Davenport said. "We have to check back our human privilege and exploitation of the environment. While those in power may not always fight for the environment, we as individuals and students always can."

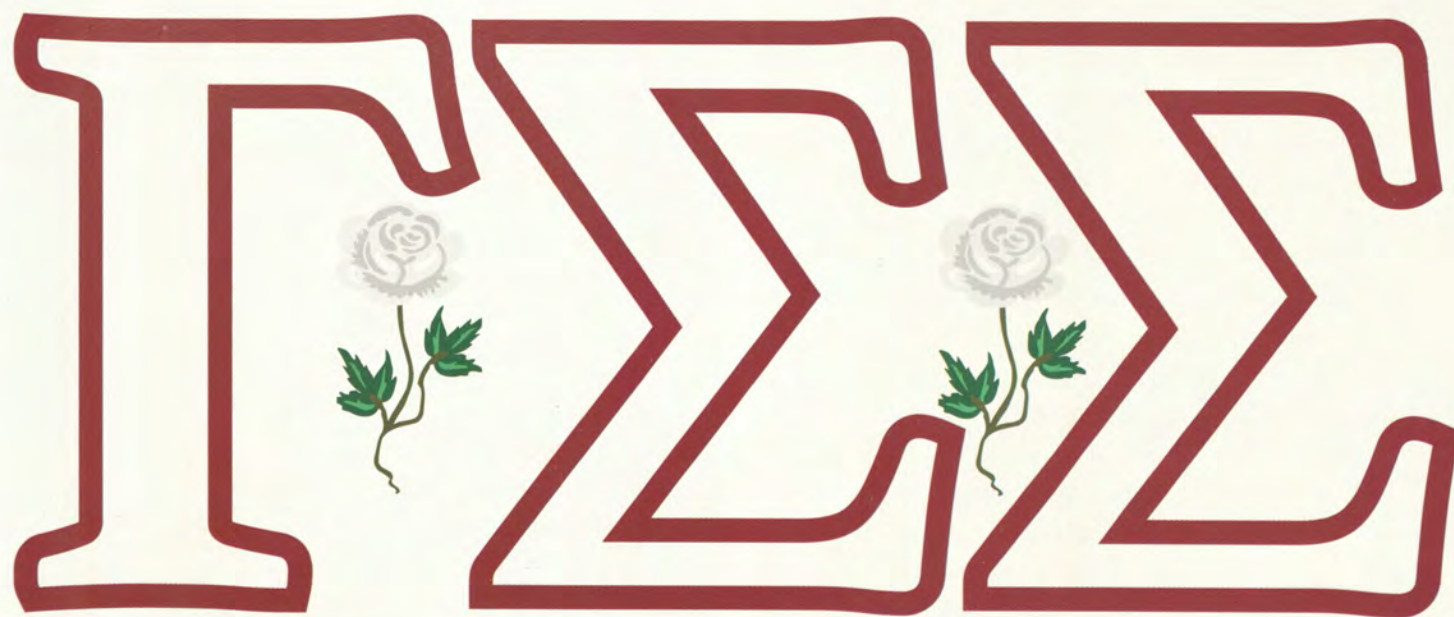
*Article by Kate Collom*

*Photo contributed by Jacqueline Taylor*





# Gamma Sigma Sigma



Gamma Sigma Sigma, commonly referred to as Gamma Sig, is the service sorority on campus. The sorority's goal is to give back to Samford and Birmingham through service, sisterhood and equality. The group partners with many local organizations such as the Birmingham Zoo, the Birmingham Museum of Art, First Light Women's Shelter and Habitat for Humanity.

"A lot of people don't know about us since we are so small, but we all enjoy giving back to the community," said Abigail Hancock, fifth year senior early childhood education major and treasurer of Gamma Sig.

Recruitment took place in October and each day included events aimed to help potential new members learn more about the history and future of the sorority, as well as to experience some service projects before they committed to a membership. Philanthropy night, sisterhood night and service night each focused on service, friendship or diversity. To become a new member, students had to attend two of the three nights.

"With Gamma Sig, there aren't competing service sororities. If you want to join, you can. You just need to love doing service and be committed to it," sophomore communication sciences and disorders major Brooke Anna Canada said. "As college students, we get kind of selfish so it's nice to have an outlet to not focus on yourself and to reach out to other people."

On Halloween, members participated in the Annual Trick or Treat for Canned Goods event in Vestavia Hills, Mountain Brook and Homewood. Members dressed up in costumes and asked for canned goods to donate to First Light Women's Shelter in Downtown Birmingham.

"Sometimes we have the opportunity to hear from a Samford alum about how they did similar projects when they were students," said Mary Hailey Sinyard, junior history major and president of Gamma Sig. "It shows that Samford, no matter how far it has come, still has the same heart for service that it did five, 10 or even 30 years ago."

*Article by Katie Roth*

*Graphic by Hallie King*

*Anniversary Fact: Gamma Sigma Sigma was founded on Oct. 12, 1952 as a national service organization with the motto "Unity in Service."*



# DiversAbility

*Anniversary Fact:* DiversAbility was founded by Frances Isbell in 2013 to raise awareness for disability access on campus.

DiversAbility is a student-led disability advocacy organization created to raise awareness about various disabilities and to foster an inclusive community for all students. Members sought to raise awareness for the disabled on campus and in our community and to develop a positive attitude toward them. Another mission of DiversAbility was to engage students at Samford with local disability organizations.

DiversAbility gave Samford students a platform to advocate for disability awareness on campus.

"Samford is not handicap accessible at all and working with disability services trying to plan events that are handicap accessible opened my eyes to the challenges people with disabilities face every day," said DiversAbility President Kelsey Rowe, a junior public health major.

In the fall, DiversAbility hosted a convocation event featuring Triumph Services Incorporated, a local organization that provides community-based support to individuals with developmental disabilities trying to live independently.

"The guys from Triumph were able to share their stories with us which was so cool. This was our first convo event and it went really well. It was really rewarding to see all of our hard work come together," said senior marketing major Carolina Moon.

DiversAbility taught members more than just ways to raise disability awareness. Life and leadership skills were taught through the activities the group hosted.



"I was taught how to be a good leader, but besides that, they made me find my passion in life and skills that I never knew I had before, like speaking up and using my voice," said Kevin Aparicio, a junior law, politics and society major.

DiversAbility members hope to increase their numbers in the following academic years. The group is open to students interested in disability-related topics.

*Article by Jenny Lynn Davis*

*Photos by Sarah Ferrell*





# Sons of Light



Samford's infamous secret society, the Sons of Light, is a group focused on ancient folklore and Biblical teachings. They perform discreet charitable actions, distribute anonymous letters and notes of encouragement across campus, and sporadically air a scavenger hunt across Samford radio signals each spring.

"Sons of Light is an interesting group on campus," said an anonymous source. "The students do not know much about them, but when they do something, it is always fun and exciting. It gives students a sense of adventure trying to learn more about them."

This year, black banners waved across campus to signify the beginning of the scavenger hunt and the radio station to tune in to. Nine plaques inconspicuously placed across campus tell the story of the Sons of Light in a mysterious way. A barcode was posted with each plaque giving carefully selected Bible verses that when pieced together from start to finish gave the solution to a riddle. This solution brought participants to the location of a relic, and the team who found it first was allowed to meet some of the members and earn an award for their efforts.

The identity of each Sons of Light member is hidden even upon graduation. Some claim that member anonymity is carried to the deathbed. There are speculations, however, of groups that could be involved. Some people believe that every member of Dudes-a-Plenty is part of Sons of Light, others believe that it consists of only women and others still believe it to be a faculty scheme.

No matter the members of the group or their discreet nature, their intentions are appreciated campuswide. Students enjoy the thrill of figuring out their schemes and identities while others are blessed by their goal of bringing people out of the darkness and into the light through love and charity.

"I think Sons of Light is a great part of Samford's community," said an anonymous source. "The fact that they choose to make games and other good things for campus with anonymity, though kind of weird, embodies a lot of what I think Samford is about: loving like Christ without personal recognition."

*Article and photos submitted anonymously*

*Anniversary Fact: Sons of Light was founded in 2010. It is assumed that nine anonymous members are the founding fathers because of the nine plaques placed across campus.*



# Samford Gamers

*Anniversary Fact:* The organization was founded in 2012 and has held annual tournaments for popular games such as Super Smash Bros. since 2013.

The Community of Samford Gamers has been hard at play since late 2012. Despite the newness of the club, CSG was very active throughout the year.

Gamers met every Thursday night at 7:30 to play games. Events typically had around 30 students in attendance. CSG also hosted four local area network parties each semester. Some parties had a theme, such as Halloween, by which certain games were selected to coordinate.

"The Thursday night meetings used to be a time for people to practice playing Super Smash Bros. for the tournaments we attend in the area. Then last semester our event coordinator had the idea to expand the meeting to include any video games anyone wanted to play," said CSG president and senior Spanish major Amanda Owens.

"I joined this club because I wanted to meet other people who shared my love of video games," said Caroline Hammond, senior English major and treasurer of CSG. "I thought it would be a good way to make friends and feel part of a community."

During Unplugged Night, CSG brought in a large variety of board and card games. It was one of the more popular events because there is usually less of a learning curve with board games than with video games, which allowed anyone to easily join in on the fun.

"I love technology and gaming of all kinds, especially the social aspect that comes with it," sophomore entrepreneurship major John Kendrick said. "This club provides an outlet for people to get together,



play games and socialize. What could be better?"

CSG fostered relationships and built a unique community of students who bonded over their love of video games and fellowship.

"I have met many great friends because of CSG," said Hammond. "Playing games with friends is fun and a great way to relax. CSG provides a nice sense of belonging that has really made my time in college special."

*Article by Kate Collom*

*Photos by Chris Kawell*





# TEDx



TEDx organizers planned a TED event based on the format of TED Talks. TED promotes “ideas worth spreading” in a specialized format where experts talk about a wide range of topics in an accessible way.

This year’s TEDx event, titled “Beneath the Surface,” included talks on economic justice, the racial divide, the neurology of learning, mathematical thinking and heroism.

TED has a way of teaching those who do not expect to learn. This event taught three primary groups of people: the attendees, the student organizers and even the speakers. Harry’s Coffeehouse filled with students and community members excited to dive beneath the surface.

Samford senior human development and family education major Natalie Marshall explained that TEDx taught her to “reach out to people more experienced in your area. Look to the people ahead on the path to find out what small steps you can take to start your journey.” This year’s TEDx event enabled students to do just that, as they had the opportunity to talk with and ask questions of the speakers.

Although the event was a huge success, it could

not have happened without the hard working group of student leaders who have worked to organize the event since the beginning of the school year. Even though they knew every detail of the event, TEDx taught them, too.

“I got connected freshman year and really enjoyed it,” said junior psychology major and student leader Madeline Ingram. “Now I want to organize speaking events as a career in the future.”

TEDx also taught the experts through their speaking experiences. Giving a TED Talk is not just an honor but also a distinct learning opportunity for the speakers.

A.K. Shauku, who is a TEDx speaker, attorney and government professor at the University of Alabama at Birmingham, said that giving a talk was “a unique challenge in communication. It is about getting big ideas and ambitious content into 20 minutes.”

Overall, TED teaches. It promoted learning outside of the classrooms on Samford’s campus and it succeeded in pushing students to dive into ideas worth spreading.

*Article by Lexi Gilbert*

*Photos by Margaret Schultz*

*Anniversary Fact: Samford hosted its first TEDx event in April 2012 and has held one almost every year since. The organization continues to grow each year.*



# S.A.V.E.

Sustaining a Village Everyday, or S.A.V.E., is a nonprofit organization established at high school and collegiate levels. Samford's chapter began in 2014 because the founders wanted an organization that included ministry and nonprofit mission work. S.A.V.E. started off with only six members, but has expanded to about 20 active members since its beginning.

"I have loved that we have been able to become an established organization on campus," said senior psychology major Julia Jordan-Lake.

S.A.V.E. partners with poverty-stricken villages to help them develop and learn to function on their own. Currently, they are partnered with a village in Boukeron, Haiti, and Samford's chapter primarily focused on and raised money for the medical needs in the village. About half of the organization was made up of students pursuing a medical career.

"I was drawn to S.A.V.E. because I really liked that it involved the medical field," said McKenzie Babb, junior nursing major and president of S.A.V.E.

Each year since its establishment, S.A.V.E. has sent a team of people to the village in Haiti during spring break and occasionally over JanTerm. This year, 10 students were sent to Haiti to work and serve.

"Haiti gave me a perspective of how we can impact others by using our passions and future professions," said freshman pharmacy major and restaurant chair Savannah Elliott.

Prior to the trip, the members held a Christmas concert in Harry's Coffeehouse. The concert included live music from students, Seeds coffee and Church Street cookies. The proceeds went to the medical needs in the village. They also hosted various restaurant support nights and held mug and T-shirt sales. After the trip, the group held a spring concert at Seeds Coffee Company.

S.A.V.E. met biweekly and hosted a worship night once a month.

*Article by Page Secreast*

*Photos by Chris Kawell*

Entre Nous



*Anniversary Fact: S.A.V.E. began in Murfreesboro, Tennessee, before a chapter was established at Samford.*



# You're Not Alone

You're Not Alone, more intimately known as YNA, was established by biology major Jane Edwards because she felt the need for a student counseling organization.

"I want YNA to be able to provide community for students who feel isolated, misunderstood, unwanted or unloved," Edwards said. "At the end of the day, if we have supported and loved on the people around us, then we have succeeded."

YNA partnered with the Bateman public relations team and the football team for student events to raise awareness of mental illness.

"I am excited and proud of the students for taking initiative in bringing light to mental health issues," said Rich Yoakum, director of Counseling Services and Wellness Programs. "There is a lot of work to be done but great progress is being made."

The Bateman team created a public relations campaign called Face the Five and worked with The Campaign to Change Direction to help the public understand the five signs of mental illness including change in personality, agitation, withdrawal, decline in personal care and hopelessness.

YNA and Face the Five partnered for a convocation event in Harry's Coffeehouse where three students shared their testimonies related to mental illness.

"I had never shared my testimony in public before," said freshman nursing major Abby Weatherford. "It was great to have so many

members of YNA come out to love on me and support me."

YNA also partnered with the football team and the counseling services to create the SAM. United Walk for Wellness. Students walked around campus spreading awareness for mental health, heard testimonies from people who have struggled with their mental health, enjoyed food trucks and more. The proceeds from the event went toward the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention.

YNA looks forward to continually raising awareness of mental health on campus and bringing more students forward to share in their struggles and successes.

*Article by Page Secreast*

*Photos by Hallie King*

*Anniversary Fact: YNA was founded at Samford and now has a second chapter at the University of Georgia.*





# ARTS

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# Play Profiles

*Anniversary Fact:* Michael J. and Mary Anne Freeman sponsor and host the "Michael J. and Mary Anne Freeman Theatre and Dance Series" with four mainstage productions each year.

## *Sleeping Beauty*

This adaptation of "Sleeping Beauty" written by Charles Way was less traditional than the well-known Disney version.

The story started out with two magical sisters, Branwen (Elizabeth McGuire, senior musical theatre major) and Modron (Kendra Ball, senior theatre for youth major), fighting over the future of an orphaned child named Briar Rose (Emily Pitts, senior theatre for youth major). The Bright Witch, Branwen, chose to send the sleeping beauty to the childless King Peredur (John Perine, sophomore theatre for youth major) and Queen Guinevere (Ann-Houston Campbell, junior theatre for youth major), but the Dark Witch, Modron, wanted the child for herself. Enraged when she didn't get her wish, Modron cast an infamous curse on the child — she will prick her finger on a spinning wheel before her sixteenth birthday.

Growing up, Briar Rose befriended a half dragon and half man creature named Gryff (Bobby Skelton, sophomore theatre major), who was sent by Branwen to look after the princess. Although he became jealous when a prince came to town and befriended Briar Rose, Gryff eventually helped Prince Owain (Jack Dowey, junior theatre major) gain the courage to journey past obstacles and save the princess.

"With Owain, he's just a normal guy trying to go through all of these seemingly impossible, mystical obstacles. He overcomes his fears by never giving up. There's a magic to that. As Owain was becoming more brave, the concept of bravery was becoming this magical thing he had that could overcome anything," said Skelton. "I hope that people took with them the sense of magic."

*Article and photos by Katie Roth*





# Nice Work If You Can Get It

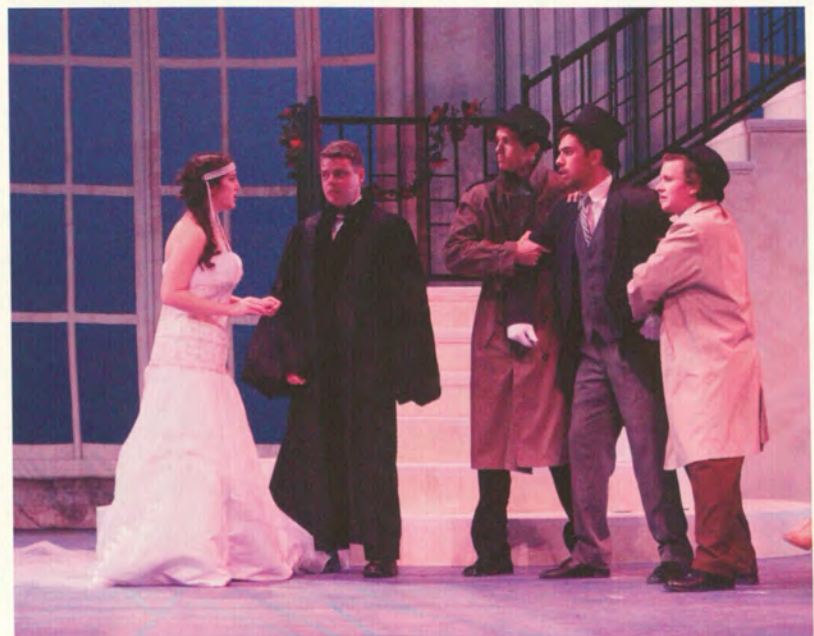
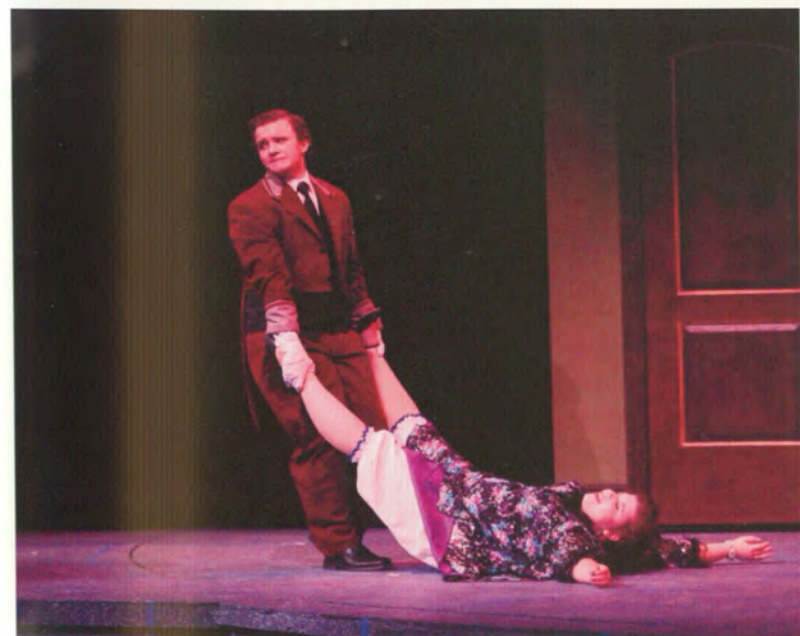
Students took audiences back to the 1920s with performances of "Nice Work If You Can Get It" during the first week of December.

"Nice Work" is a musical centered around millionaire Jimmy Winter (Evan Gunter, senior music and worship major), bootlegger Billie Bendix (Bonny Baker, senior musical theatre major), and her two sidekicks Cookie McGee (Reed Hillis, sophomore musical theatre major) and Duke Mahoney (Bobby Skelton, sophomore theatre major). After an unlikely encounter between Jimmy and Billie, Billie discovered she could stash the bootleg cases in the cellar of Jimmy's seldom-used mansion. Little did she know that Jimmy had just gotten married and would be there on his

honeymoon. Acting as workers in the house, the three bootleggers encountered comedic trials and love interests while they stuck around to guard their stash from the newly married couple and their wedding party guests.

"Nice Work" was just a breath of fresh air. I could do that show for the rest of my life," said Baker, a veteran of 10 Samford productions. "You come to just feel good and to laugh. That's who I am as a performer. That's who I'm leaving Samford as, this performer who wants to make people feel good and laugh and forget about whatever is outside those doors."

*Article and photos by Katie Roth*





# The Crucible

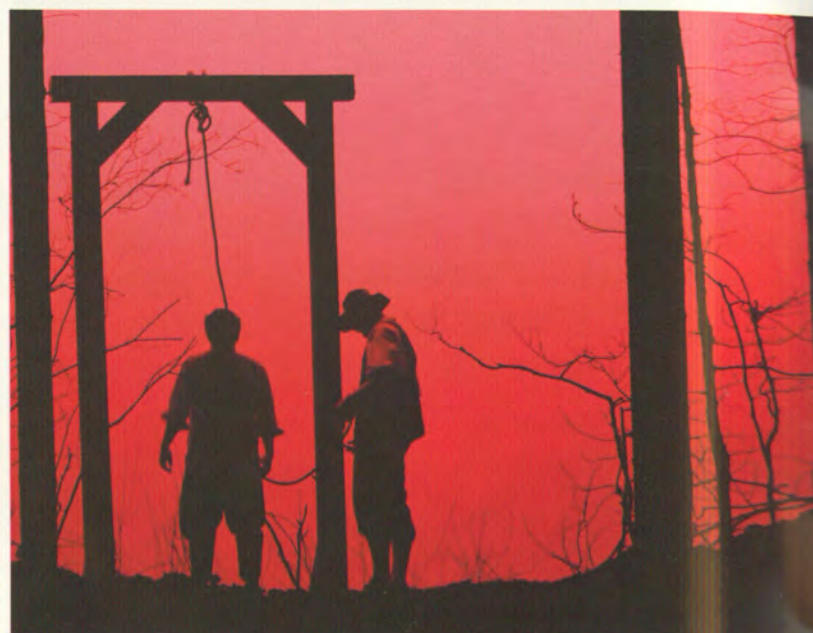
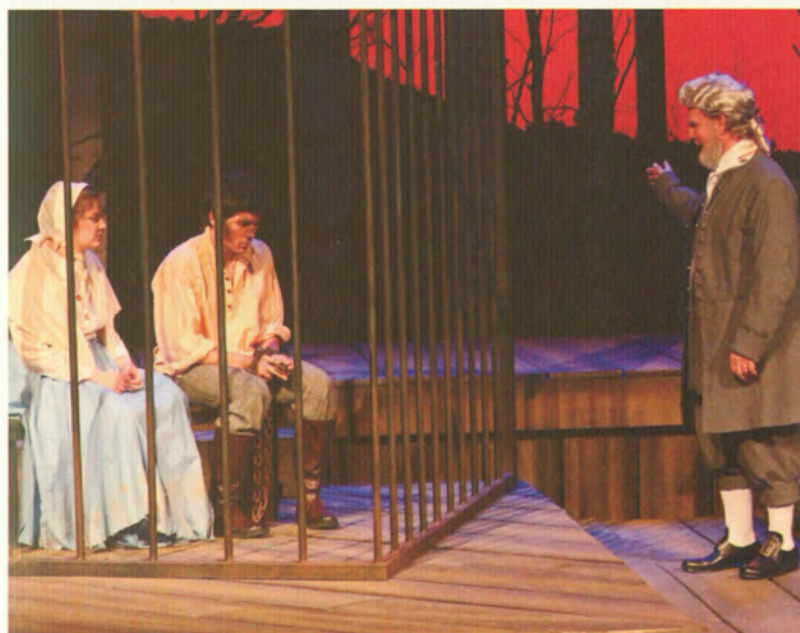
Presented from March 23–26 in Harrison Theatre, “The Crucible” followed the story of a Massachusetts town during the Salem Witch Trials. Representing a time of chaos, fear, betrayal, death and a broken community, current audiences were still able to relate to the timeless themes.

The young girls of the town, including Betty Parris (Isabel Azar, junior theatre major), Abigail Williams (Madeleine Masson, junior theatre major) and Mercy Lewis (Julia Cagno, sophomore theatre major), began to accuse town members of witchcraft, sending many of them to jail or to hang. Those who falsely confessed to being possessed by the devil were spared, while those who told the truth were punished by the greatly flawed town

officials. Trying to keep his good name, John Proctor (Jonathan Skaggs, sophomore musical theatre major) encountered a moral struggle. He had to choose between covering up his affair with Abigail or telling the town that she and the other girls were lying. In the end, John chose the truth over his own life.

“Arthur Miller, when he wrote ‘The Crucible,’ was not a man of faith. But I think ‘The Crucible’ says something powerful about the nature of sin and how if you leave sin undealt with, it will come back to bite you,” said Skaggs. “Sin left unrepentant will lead you to death, whether that be spiritual or literal. You have to be in the business of dealing with sin.”

*Article and photos by Katie Roth*





# Pretty Funny

A new addition to the Michael J. and Mary Anne Freeman Theatre and Dance Series, "Pretty Funny" was the premiere performance of the Musical Theatre: New Works Initiative on April 6-8 in Brock Recital Hall. Directed by Clayton Winters, these productions allow students to perform new musicals in a workshop style to test the script, music and lyrics before they premiere to the public.

Written by Marisa Guida with music by Philip Farugia, "Pretty Funny" is the story of pre-teen Genny (Grace Tucker, freshman musical theatre major) making the transition into middle school and her teenage years. When her friends abandon her for popularity and she no longer fits in with the rest of the crowd, she turns to 1950s comedienne Imogene Coca (Catherine Patton, junior musical theatre major) for inspiration. Rather than focusing on being pretty or popular, Coca used comedy to woo those around her.

Genny's father (Jonathan Skaggs, sophomore musical theatre major) encourages her to perform an Imogene Coca-inspired comedy sketch in the school talent show. She ropes in Randy (Remy Garfield, freshman theatre major) to be her partner after defending him from school bullies. They become friends and keep each other from falling to bullies.

Once Genny's mother (Katie Beazley, sophomore musical theatre major) realizes that her business's products are a scam and that her daughter is facing teenage troubles with only a father figure by her side, she leaves her job to return home to her family. Genny and Randy perform in the talent show, much to her parents' delight, and Genny learns what it means to shamelessly be herself.

"Beauty is not solely based on the appearance of a person," said Beazley. "That's why Imogene Coca is so pivotal to the narrative. She wasn't necessarily what society at the time considered pretty, but she was so willing to look like a complete fool and make fun of all those things that are supposed to define whether or not someone is attractive."

With Imogene Coca by her side, Genny realizes that in fact, funny is pretty.

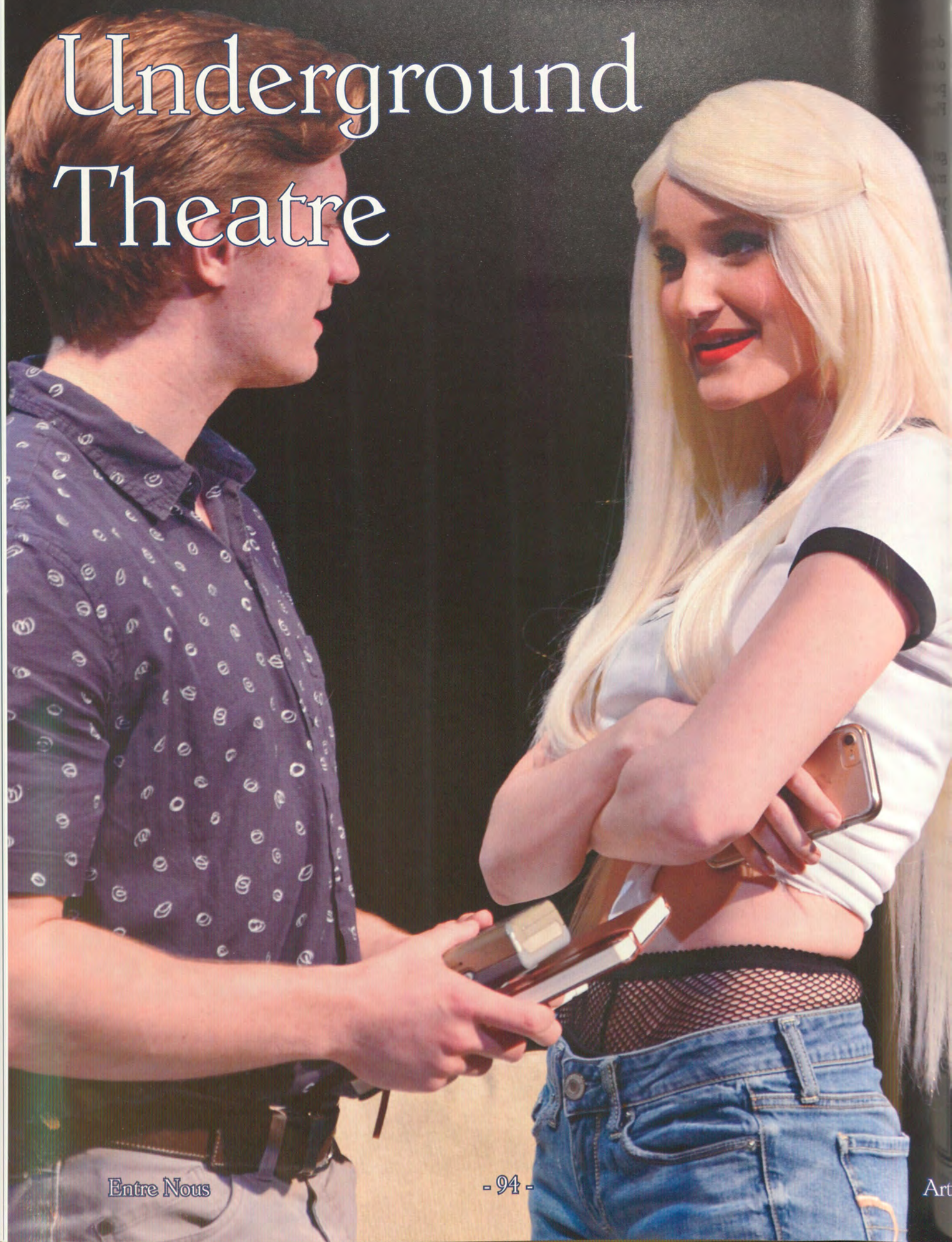
*Article by Hallie King*

*Photos by Katie Roth*





# Underground Theatre





Underground Theatre provides students from the theatre department and across campus the opportunity to perform plays of their choosing. These productions are student-produced and are put on in Studio 60, Bolding Studio and even the Christenberry Planetarium.

“My favorite thing about Underground Theatre is that we get to do shows that we wouldn't traditionally get to do on the mainstage,” said Ann-Houston Campbell, a junior theatre for youth major, “and the fact that it gives students a chance to be in leadership roles in creating a show.”

Students select, direct, produce and perform every Underground Theatre show independently from their professors, directors or classes. Notable productions from this year were a memoir of letters from Elizabeth Bishop's relationship with Robert Lowell titled “Dear Elizabeth,” Mindy Kaling's all-female representation of Matt Damon and Ben Affleck called “Matt and Ben”, and “Keely & Du” by Jane Martin.

“I love doing Underground because it's completely student run,” said Kat Sterling, a sophomore theatre major. “From advertising to tech to acting to directing, we all push each other to grow and take on responsibility.”

While most plays were chosen by the student directors, some were written by students and premiered Underground.

“For the past two years, our Underground seasons have included premiere productions of students' original works,” said John Perine, a sophomore theatre for youth major, “so as long as we have students who are putting out new plays, I'd love for those students to have the opportunity to see their works come to life.”

Senior theatre major Malyn Porter wrote and directed her play “Remembering June” and senior theatre major Cody Sparks wrote and directed his play “Athena and the Lonely Hearts” during the final two Underground performances of the year. In addition to staged shows, Porter also released a seven-episode web series titled “The Green Room” that follows a fictitious college theatre department, portrayed by theatre students and faculty.

Underground Theatre performances are free to students and are generally late at night to allow time for other activities to end. Students are encouraged to attend in order to support their fellow classmates, the theatre department and arts as a whole.

“I hope that more people get to know that Underground exists,” said Sterling. “The production quality is always outstanding and the audience and cast are always super connected. I think most Samford students would really enjoy getting to know Underground.”

Article by Hallie King  
Photos by Ziyi Zhang



*Anniversary Fact: The pilot episode of Porter's "The Green Room" recieved over 1,800 views on YouTube.*





# Visual Arts

Within the Visual Arts program are three majors – fine arts, graphic design and interior architecture – that continue to develop and grow significantly due to the department's incredible professors, recent renovations and improvements.

"The School of the Arts has played a huge role in my Samford experience," said senior art major Ryland Lovvorn. "It has shed light on a whole new world of creativity that I had no clue existed before coming to Samford."

Recently, there were several additions to allow more space for art students to work. The Art Loft were built last year, creating two stories of space for classrooms, studios for the fine arts students and working spaces and offices for the staff. This created the space needed for large painting classes as well as sculpture, ceramics, design and drawing classes.

"The visual arts program at Samford has been a huge part of my time here," said senior art major Sarah Summa. "I've learned so much from some amazing professors that have taught me to grow not only artistically, but as a person as well."

The interior architecture department also received a new space this year large enough that sophomores, juniors and seniors could work in the same studio. This not only united the department giving students the opportunity to build relationships with those outside their graduating class, but also allowed the younger majors to look up to the older students, creating a unique environment where the students can be inspired by each other's work.

"Being an interior architecture student is extremely challenging," said junior interior design major Kaylee Britton, "but also just as rewarding because it allows me to showcase my creativity and ingenuity while designing a space."

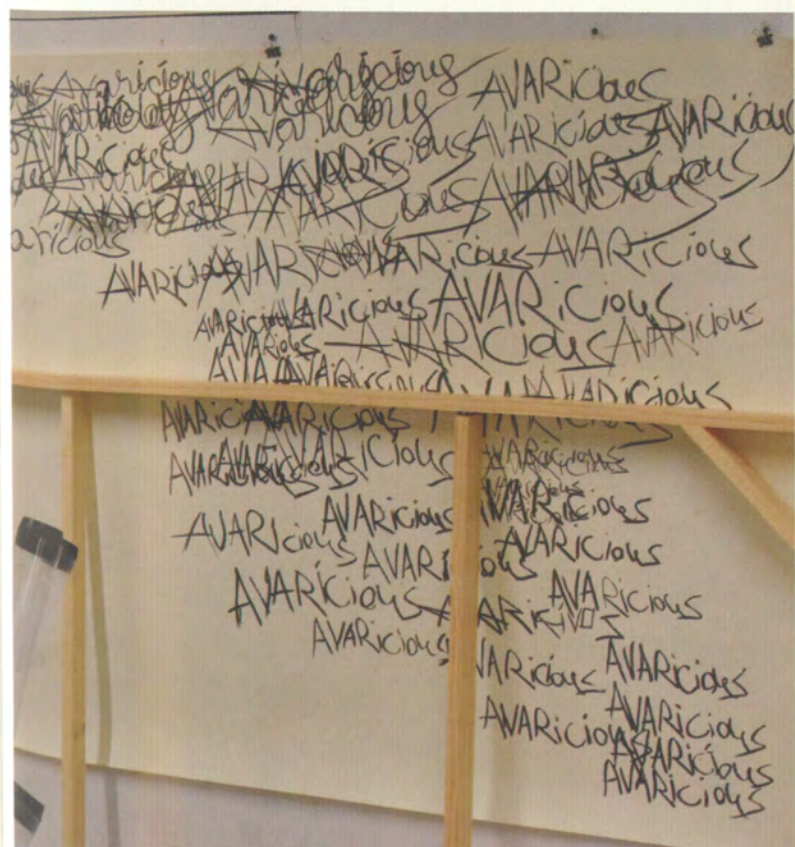
With the incredible design professors who also are practicing designers, students felt prepared for the transition from the studio to a real firm.

The interior architecture department was reaccredited this past year and the design program was ranked in the top 10 in the nation. Since this news, the program has grown dramatically and students could not be more excited about the new developments in Visual Arts.

*Article and photos by Emilie White*



Anniversary Fact: The Division of Visual Arts was established in 2014 by combining the departments of art and interior architecture.





# Delta Omicron

Delta Omicron is a professional music fraternity that spreads music in communities, promotes the work of composers and encourages the understanding of other cultures through music. Samford's chapter, Omicron Gamma, provides services in the School of the Arts by proctoring and ushering recitals and hosting events on campus.

"In some ways, we operate as a club for music students to get together and further break down the barriers between different music disciplines, like singers and instrumentalists, or church musicians and teachers," said junior vocal performance major Anna Willis.

Willis previously served as publicity director and serves as the first vice president this year.

"I decided to join Delta Omicron because a lot of my friends were in it, and I was looking for ways to participate in extracurricular activities that worked with my busy music student schedule," said Willis. "Delta Omicron offered leadership opportunities that were relevant to my major and fit my crazy schedule."

Anna Taylor, a sophomore viola performance major, joined Delta Omicron for a similar reason.

"I craved a sense of musical fraternity and leadership roles beyond the classroom into student-led musical activities where I can put into practice what I'm learning in classes," said Taylor.

This year, Delta Omicron saw great improvements in interest, growth and membership with their spring recruitment. Freshman music and worship major Nathan Peace joined Delta Omicron in the spring.



"I decided to join because it is a great opportunity to be in a community of talented musicians who share the same desire for excellence in all aspects of music," said Peace.

After a successful recruitment, Delta Omicron more than doubled the size of its chapter, making the organization a much stronger presence in the School of Music.

*Article by Victoria Shelton*

*Photos by Ziyi Zhang*

## *Anniversary Fact:*

The Omicron Gamma chapter of Delta Omicron was established on May 5, 1956. The group celebrated its 60th anniversary in 2016.





# Alpha Psi Omega



Alpha Psi Omega is a National Theatre Honor Society that strives to give recognition to its members and cultivate their abilities as performers. The organization was thoroughly involved in student life and supporting its community.

"Samford University's Tau Lambda chapter promotes Samford Theatre and Dance events and provides services to our local and global communities," said senior theatre for youth major and Alpha Psi Omega president Kendra Ball.

During the fall semester, they sponsored "Monday Night Live!" which offered students a break from studying during finals week. During the Mondays of both dead week and finals week, Alpha Psi Omega provided entertainment so students could take their minds off studying. The first week the performances showcased comedy and sketches, and during finals week they partnered with Samford Theatre and Dance to present Christmas Skits and songs fitting to the season.

While they supported the main stage productions from Samford Theatre, Alpha Psi Omega also found time to fund and promote Underground Theatre events. Through this support, the Samford community gained

more access to the arts.

Alpha Psi Omega also used concession proceeds from performances, notably the main stage shows, to sponsor a World Vision child from the international program that provides children in need with care and supplies like education and clean water. Further service from Alpha Psi Omega came from Samford Gives Back, where they volunteered to benefit the greater Birmingham and Homewood areas.

A major event from the organization is the awards ceremony hosted each year called "The Bonies." During the ceremony, the organization recognized achievements from the shows and students throughout the year.

"It's a time of reflection we get to take at the end of the year," said junior theatre major Jack Dowey. "Looking back on all the hard work everyone in the department put into each show gives us all a sense of community and appreciation for each other."

Alpha Psi Omega looks forward to hosting more theatre events for students to engage with in the future.

*Article by Jamie Davenport*

*Photos by Ziyi Zhang*

*Anniversary Fact: The Alpha Psi Omega honor society was founded on Aug. 12, 1925 in Fairmont, West Virginia.*



# A Cappella Choir

The A Cappella Choir is a prestigious and highly sought-after choir on campus. With a rigorous rehearsal schedule and regular performances, the choir requires choral skill and other vocal abilities from its members to perform at such a high caliber.

"The A Cappella Choir is a big commitment, and we do performances that most of the campus does not even know about, traveling to churches and other performance venues quite frequently," said senior voice major Austin Foster. "We rehearse every day, usually averaging around five hours per week. That's more than any musical ensemble on campus."

Students are accepted by audition only. However, the choir is not made up solely of music students. Participants come from across campus to audition.

"The Samford A Cappella Choir is an audition-only group, so typically our director Philip Copeland takes auditions in the spring and the summer for the upcoming year. It usually entails some sight singing, checking vocal range and possibly a prepared piece he chose for everyone auditioning," said senior composition major Maggie Boswell. "However, it is not by any means exclusive to music students. We've had math majors, business, nursing and more. It's very inclusive and diverse."

The choir performs monthly Choral Vespers in Hodges Chapel, concerts each semester, performances on campus and appearances in the community. Their tireless hours of preparation mold them into one of the top-performing ensembles at the

university. Because of the time spent working together on a weekly basis throughout the entire school year, the choir students develop bonds that enrich their Samford experience.

"I love the close community aspect of the choir," said freshman music and worship major Nathan Peace, "as well as the high level of musicality and difficult repertoire we perform."

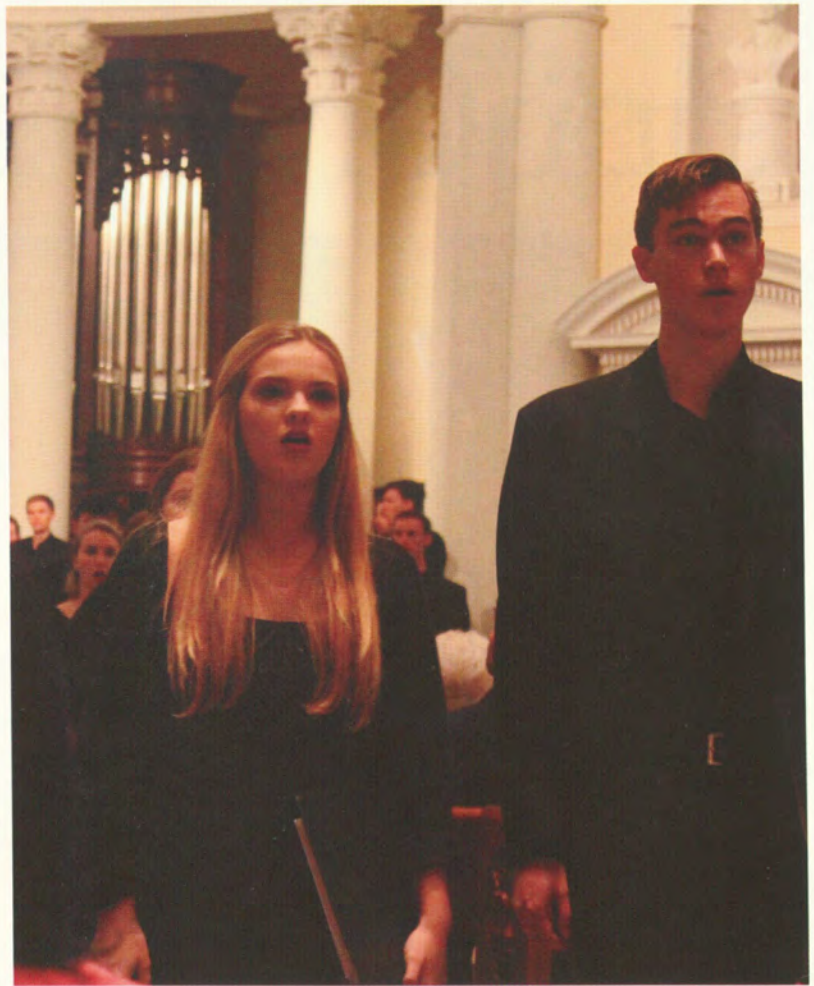
Joining the A Cappella Choir or simply attending a performance provides an impactful experience for Samford students.

*Article by Hallie King*

*Photos by Alyssa Hall*







*Anniversary Fact:*  
The choir performs and competes nationally and internationally, regularly winning notable awards and applause-worthy accolades.



# University Chorale

Samford's University Chorale, under the direction of Dr. Sharon Lawhon, had an impressive season this year. The University Chorale is comprised of students from all years and all academic majors, giving students with a mutual love of music the opportunity to come together and perform.

The participating students practiced three times per week as part of a course led by Dr. Lawhon. These courses can count toward general elective requirements for various degrees offered throughout the university, making the group truly cross-disciplinary.

The University Chorale performs a cross-section of quality literature in major concerts and university events each year.

In the spring, they performed Mozart's "Vesperae Solennes" for a Maundy Thursday service with the Covenant Choir at Baptist Church of the Covenant in downtown Birmingham.

Samford's University Chorale is a great way for students interested in music to get involved on campus and bring beautiful sounds to the students of Samford, as well as the Birmingham community in general.

*Article by Victoria Shelton*

*Photos by Hallie King*

## *Anniversary Fact*

The University Chorale convenes for special university events, local church performances and concerts each year.





# Samford Opera



As part of the Dr. Chandler and Jane Paris Smith Opera Series, Samford Opera showcased a variety of works in the fall as well as putting on a 3-night performance of "The Marriage of Figaro" in the spring.

During the fall semester, Samford Opera held a two-night Samford Opera Workshops Scenes. This free event afforded the Samford community a great opportunity to enjoy bits of well-known opera.

In January, Samford Opera traveled to Santa Barbara, California, to participate in the National Opera Association's Scenes Competition. Many students qualified as finalists, bringing awards home for Samford.

"Opera has always amazed me, in that it's the only place in the artistic world

where singers, instrumentalists, conductors, staging directors, stage managers, lighting and stage designers, and many others join together to tell a story," said senior piano major Robert Turnage.

In late April, Samford Opera wrapped up its season with Mozart's "The Marriage of Figaro."

"It's really interesting that an opera that was written in 1786 can still be relevant and funny even today," said opera director Kristin Kenning.

Opera students continually devoted their time to the art and its spread throughout the community.

*Article by Jamie Davenport*

*Photos by Katie Roth*

*Anniversary Fact: The Opera's annual performances include scenes, full operas or operettas, concerts, competitions and community productions throughout Birmingham.*



# Samford Dance





The Samford Dance Company has grown tremendously in recent years with the addition of experienced new faculty as well as the opening of brand-new studios. A dance major has yet to be developed, but the dance minor is flourishing, and with the recent growth and developments in the department, a dance major could be in the foreseeable future.

Samford Dance's spring concert, "Elements," was proof of this growth as the number of participants, as well as the number of pieces performed, doubled since last year's concert. For the first time, the concert incorporated a student-choreographed piece in the line up. Freshman international relations major Sammy Solberg choreographed a contemporary piece for a trio called "Slip" that was performed in this year's concert.

"Our concert this year was a whole new experience for me," said Solberg. "I felt like I was in a professional setting learning what it might be like to be in a professional company and I enjoyed every minute."

The dance department has grown significantly this year with at least five new freshman additions to the minor. In anticipation of the growth, Samford built two large dance studios on campus this spring, allowing the Samford dance classes to take place on campus instead of off.

"I am pleased with how much the Samford Dance Company has grown because we are used to having five or less girls in the class and now we have 11 girls dancing with us regularly," said Sara Copley, a junior human development and family education major. "Hopefully we can get our name out there more and incoming freshmen will want to be a part of Samford Dance."

Not only has the department grown from incoming freshmen, but there also were recent additions of older students due to increased awareness of the growing department.

"I grew up dancing my entire life and dance is one of the things I really didn't want to leave behind when going to college," said sophomore nursing major Kristina Reynolds. "I learned about the dance company and joined. It has made such an impact on my college experience. Samford Dance Company has given me the opportunity to dance the way I used to."

The dancers are excited about the new developments and are looking forward to seeing how the program continues to improve in the coming years.

*Article by Emilie White*

*Photos by Alyssa Hall*



**Anniversary Fact:** 2017 marks the first year that Samford Dance students had the opportunity to rehearse on campus in new studios.



# Samford Orchestra

*Anniversary Fact:* The Samford Orchestra travels locally, nationally and globally to perform in theatres, schools and churches. In 2017 they performed internationally in the Dominican Republic.

The Samford University Orchestra, under the direction of Dr. Brian Viliunas, presented a marvelous program of classical music in Brock Recital Hall.

Made up of 65 music and non-music majors, the Samford University Orchestra rehearsed and performed a wide selection of standard orchestral literature, operas, oratorios, concerti and musical theatre shows.

Viliunas intended to astonish audience members with several final climaxes throughout the concert, each topping the last, and the precision and force with which the Samford University Orchestra accomplished this was overwhelming.

"I really enjoyed their performance," said audience member Ziyi Zhang. "It was a deeply satisfying night. I especially liked the selection of the pieces they chose."

The performance ended with the overwhelming applause of a full house and the joy of success shared by the orchestra members dedicated to bringing classical music to Samford and the Birmingham community.

"I have loved playing in the Samford Orchestra while I have been here and thoroughly enjoyed performing tonight," said senior music major and violinist Kathryn Lamb. "It is so much fun to work with so many different people, both students and



professors, to create music together."

Violinist and senior instrumental music major Annsley Tate agreed that bringing beautiful music to audiences both on Samford's campus and around the world is incomparable.

"Playing in the Samford Orchestra is an exhilarating experience," said Tate, who has been a part of the orchestra for seven years. "It is such a joy to make music for people to glorify God."

*Article and photos by Pang Tu Yung*





# Jazz Band



In the dimly lit Brock Recital Hall, the Samford Jazz Band played its spring concert on April 21, 2017.

Performing seven pieces, the band showcased some of its most impressive work from the season. Playing songs by Strayhorn, Gyra and Metheny, the band covered a variety of pieces which allowed many of its members to have solos.

"The Samford Jazz Band is a combination of students with a wide variety of interests. It is composed of music majors and non-music majors, student athletes, Greeks and independents. I think that is what makes our jazz ensemble so special," said Jonathan Lawson, a sophomore history major. "We have different interests and goals, but all of us share a love of music."

Not only did the Jazz Band perform on campus, they also had many opportunities to perform in various places nationally and worldwide including the Dominican Republic.

"Playing in the Dominican Republic was a

fantastic experience. All of the people there were so attentive, involved and just plain excited to hear our music," said Kerry Joiner, a freshman music composition major. "I'll never forget playing in the Colonial City in Santo Domingo, surrounded by hundreds of amazing people that came out to hear us play."

The band worked diligently throughout the year to put pieces together that would be recognizable to the audience but would also provide their own spin on well-known songs.

"The Jazz Band is such a fun group of people who I never would have had the opportunity to meet otherwise," said junior communication sciences and disorders major Krista Boesing. "Being in the band was really a cool experience to see so many different people come together for one purpose and just have fun playing jazz."

*Article and photos by Stephen DeFrancesco*

*Anniversary Fact: The Jazz Band plays regular concerts around Birmingham as well as internationally with the Orchestra.*



# ATHLETICS

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# Football

The football team started the 2016 season with a huge win over Mars Hill, 77-7.

"The first game is always great," said junior marine science major Frank D'Alonzo. "My teammates were impatient to play against someone other than ourselves after a year of playing scrimmages against each other. It was also one of our biggest crowds which was a highlight of the season."

Quarterback Devlin Hodges was a crucial player for the successful season and was named the Southern Conference offensive player of the year.

"Anytime you score 11 touchdowns in a game, that is a lot of fun and a lot of scoring no matter who you play," said Hodges, a junior sports administration major. "I think that first game we got some juice about us and getting a game under your belt before a tough road game is huge."

This home game gave the team momentum for the next away game against a non-conference team, defeating Central Arkansas 35-29.

As the season progressed, Samford continued on a three-game winning streak before coming up short to Southeastern Conference team Mississippi State University in a hard-fought game.

"The Mississippi State game was such a cool experience. Playing for Samford you don't get the SEC atmosphere every Saturday. The fans really came out and showed support," Hodges said. "I remember this one specific touchdown from that game that really stood out. I threw a pass to Andrew Harris in the corner where the fans were and when he scored it was the loudest moment I think I have ever experienced."

The players were confident in their abilities as they faced their SEC competitor and were proud of the game they played.

"We were a big underdog coming into that game, but we went out there, played as hard as we could and honestly just had fun doing it," said senior psychology major Tyler Small.

Entre Nous

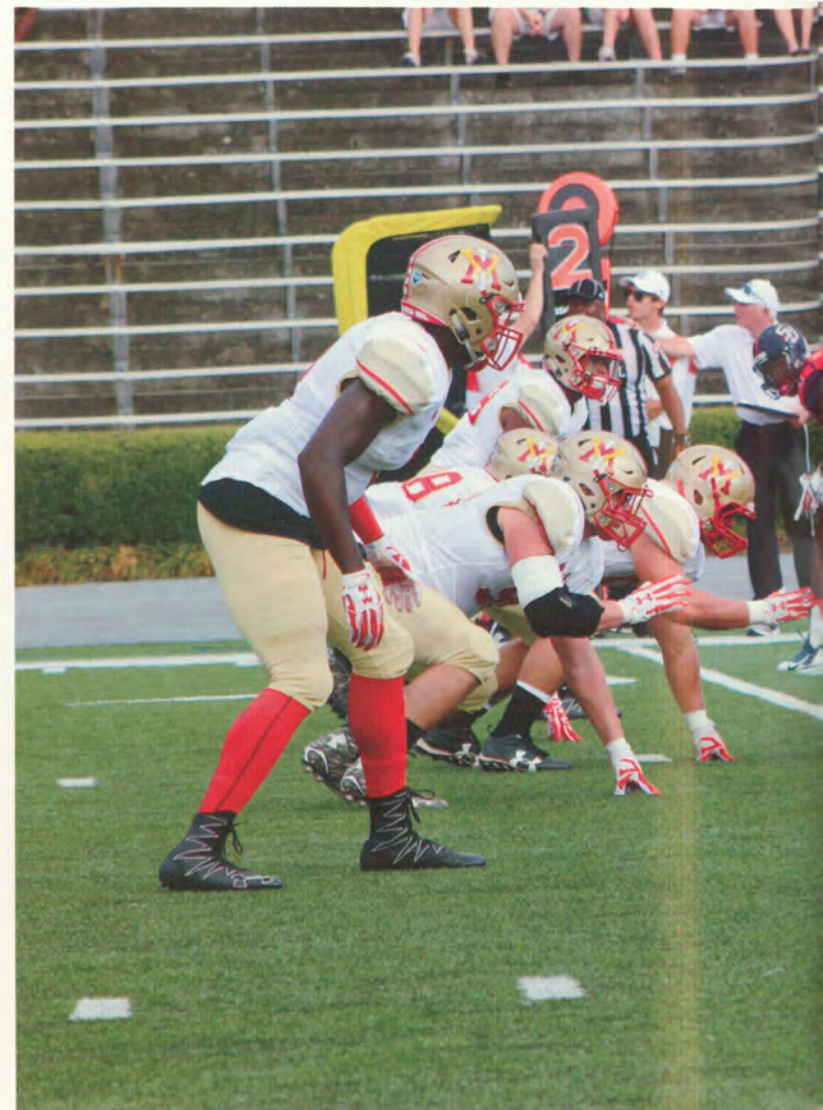
The Bulldogs played with intention and skill game after game and enjoyed having the Samford community supporting them on the sidelines.

"We love when the stands are packed, especially with students and especially when they're packed the whole game," said Small. "It means a lot to see our fellow classmates and friends out there cheering us on. It also makes winning a lot more fun when we have people to celebrate with."

Samford advanced to the FCS Playoffs, traveling to Ohio for the first round. The Bulldogs finished the overall season with a 7-5 record.

*Article by Katie DiQuollo and Hallie King*

*Photos by Sarah Ferrell and Katie Roth*







*Anniversary Fact:*  
Samford's first year of football was  
in 1902 and the team has played  
101 seasons since.



# Cheerleaders

The cheerleading squad worked year-round to keep the campus' spirit high and engage with the community.

The 10-month season for the cheerleaders began before the fall semester, dedicating two weeks of practices to learning new stunts, cheers and dances. In order to better reach their goal of crowd interaction, they made new changes to their football season routine.

"We added signs and simplified our cheers, allowing for our fans to catch on easier and chant along," said sophomore pre-business major Madeline Allred. "Adding a pregame show to the football games was the most exhausting seven minutes of my life, but really improved the quality of the game and felt very collegiate."

While football games involved constant motion, the cheerleaders had to create a louder atmosphere at basketball games.

"In basketball, we sit courtside in front of the students, so there's significantly less of a

performance aspect, but more leading the crowd in cheers throughout the whole game," said sophomore secondary education major Rachel Loughney.

Team members also attended children's activities such as birthday parties and elementary school events, as well as Samford-promoted events such as the annual golf tournament. In just one month, the squad logged an average of 150 service hours to help raise awareness for widespread causes and interact with the community.

"Through appearances, we hope to elicit fans and spectators for athletic events and to show their support in different ways," said senior nursing major and cheer captain Raegan Camp.

As the community became more involved in Samford sports and activities, the cheerleaders had more fans to interact with at games. Every appearance, workout and practice pushed them to create a better atmosphere each time they cheered.

*Article by Hannah Diamond*

*Photos by Katie Roth*

*Anniversary Fact: The cheerleaders perform annually at athletic events such as football and basketball games as well as at local charity functions.*





# Bulldog Dancers



The Bulldog Dancers committed their fall and winter seasons to cheering and dancing on the sidelines at football and basketball games. The team dynamic rallied strengths into successes.

Senior graphic design major Natalie Frank closed out her senior season with the team standing by her on the court at the Southern Conference Tournament in Asheville, North Carolina.

"The true highlight of SoCon this year was cheering on our men's and women's basketball teams to the semi-final round of the tournament. That was an incredible accomplishment for our players and I am so grateful I was given the opportunity to cheer them on in each game," said Frank.

Over Jan Term the dance team extended its traveling outside SoCon schools and partnered with the cheer team to serve through mission work in Costa Rica.

"We helped with the building of an orphanage, went into the slums, played games and shared the Gospel with the children of the neighborhood and spent full days with orphans and impoverished children at a care center," freshman journalism and mass communication major Erica Wilson said. "We spent a full week there and not a day went by that we didn't encounter the joy and faith in the Lord that these Costa Rican people had."

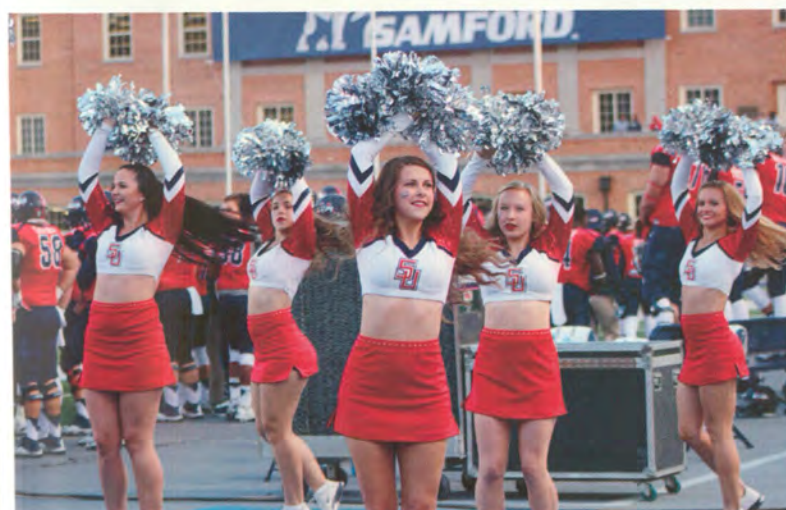
Although the dance team was already a close-knit group leading up to the trip, Costa Rica placed the team in a new setting that required constant accountability and encouragement.

"Experiencing the pain of seeing what little the children had and knowing that we had so many blessings waiting for us back home was very humbling," said Wilson. "Naturally, feeling humbled, overwhelmed and true pain for all of the brokenness brought us closer in a way like never before."

The Bulldog Dancers will continue supporting Samford athletics, the student body and people around the world as they grow and prosper as a team.

*Article by Katie DiQuollo*

*Photos by Katie Roth*



*Anniversary Fact:* The dancers are part of the Spirit Program, raising spirit on campus and around Birmingham.



# Marching Band

Without Samford's marching band, university football games wouldn't have their familiar energy and crowd-pleasing entertainment.

"The band is a source of excitement for the game," said freshman Spanish major Jake Williams. "We always play during positive moments in the games and I think that excites both the audience and the football team."

Beginning the marching season in late August with new band director Timothy Heath, the band set to work on their 2016 halftime show featuring Walk the Moon's "Shut Up and Dance," Sly and the Family Stone's "Dance to the Music" and the Abba classic "Dancing Queen" along with a new drill routine.

However, it is not the halftime show or stand tunes that make the band so special. It is the community fostered from the program. At the beginning of the year, new members are broken into "band families" with upperclassmen.

"Band families are a unique trait of the band that deepens the sense of community," said Williams.

The band unites students in the ensemble, on the football field, in the stands and all across the university.

"The band is more than a musical ensemble, it is more than an activity," said senior music major Rebekah Hunnewell. "It is a place where people want to come to serve the university and build long lasting friendships."

*Article by Natascha Anderson*

*Photos by Sarah Ferrell and Katie Roth*



*Anniversary Fact: The Samford marching band performs at home football games, occasional away games and a high school marching exhibition annually.*



# Color Guard



With every toss, a colorful flag glided into the air only to delicately return to the hands of its owner. Samford's color guard regularly attempted this action as they performed across Seibert stadium sporting glittering costumes and bright lipstick. They livened the audience as they spun along to contagious stand tunes.

Although Samford's color guard sparkles at every football game, their uniqueness is anchored in their bond off the field.

"I would describe us as being like a family," says freshman English major Abigail Aho. "We may not always get along perfectly, but we all love and care about one another. It amazes me that we all have very different personalities, but we can still work together and learn from one another."

The girls of Samford's guard can often

be found going out to eat together, belting the Backstreet Boys in the car, and supporting each other in other activities across Samford's campus.

The 2016-17 school year brought five new faces to the Samford guard, expanding the talent and skill of the group as a whole.

"They (are) fantastic at spinning a flag," said sophomore graphic design major Memory Smith. "What was great about this guard season was that you could really see the program growing."

Whether it be on or off the field, Samford's color guard will continue to encourage school spirit all across campus as their team grows and progresses.

*Article by Natascha Anderson*

*Photos by Sarah Ferrell and Katie Roth*

*Anniversary Fact: Color Guard works closely with the marching band to ensure that their routines coordinate perfectly.*



# Volleyball



The volleyball team's 2016 season was a time of learning and triumph. Under a completely new coaching staff, the team learned how to play a different style of volleyball and ended triumphantly as the 2016 Southern Conference Champions.

Head coach Keylor Chan and the Bulldogs ended their season with an impressive 21-14 overall season record but entered the conference tournament as only the fourth seed.

"It was an honor to lead the 2016 Samford Volleyball program," said Chan. "The journey was filled with laughs, championships, learning, but most importantly faith. Faith in each other to do our very best to become the best we possibly could be. A wonderful and blessed time."

Seniors Kiahna Wicks and Gabbi Greenwald felt it was the team's year to win another championship.

"Early on, the season had its ups and downs because it was really hard initially to learn new ways to do things and a new style of volleyball," said Wicks, a public administration major. "But we kept getting better and better and we peaked at the right time, in the end, as we won the Southern Conference title."

Greenwald explained how coach Chan brought a new philosophy to the team. He stressed the importance of leaving behind a positive legacy as a team and as a senior class to set an example for the volleyball teams in the future.

"Our team this year was determined to leave a legacy and that is exactly what we did," said Greenwald, a fitness and health promotion major. "We, the senior class, had our sights on this championship ever since our freshman year when we found out we would be hosting our senior year."

With the help of talented newcomers, the veteran team had a successful ending to their season.

The conference tournament was held at the Pete Hanna Center and the team won their third conference championship in program history.

The team swept their first-round game against Wofford College and went on to beat the first seeded East Tennessee State University in the semi-final. Then, the team won the championship game against University of Tennessee at Chattanooga in front of a record attendance crowd.

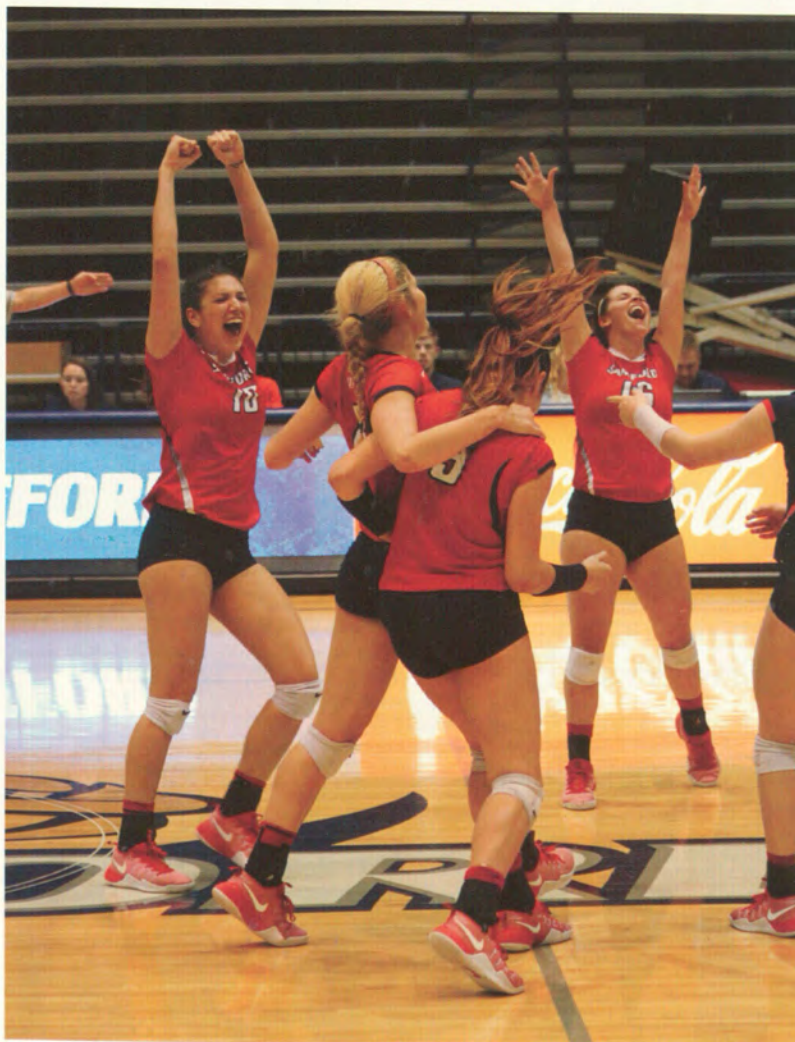
"It was the perfect way to go out as a senior," said Greenwald, "having the biggest crowd we have ever seen in the Pete Hana center, winning the conference and getting a bid to the NCAA Championships."

*Article by Erin Bognar*

*Photos by Alyssa Hall*



*Anniversary Fact:* 2016 was the volleyball team's sixth-best winning percentage season since its first game in 1977.





# Women's Soccer

For only the fourth time in Samford's history, the soccer team received a bid to the NCAA Tournament. This bid represented the culmination of everything the team worked for in the 2016 season.

Senior human development and family science major Olivia Cole described it as something out of her childhood dreams, a goal she strived for since her first days on the field.

"We play for the love of the game, but in the back of everyone's mind is the hope of playing in the NCAA Tournament," said Cole. "This being my last go around, I could not have written a better ending to my career."

The Samford Bulldogs were dominant in regular season play, finishing the season 15-4-2, winning the SOCON tournament.

With a class of seven seniors, the team itself was loaded with talent, led by sports administration major Malcanisha Kelley and marketing major Jermaine Seoposenwe on the attacking side and Cole on the defensive.

One of the seniors, Taylor Borman, understood the impact of having so many seniors on a single roster and the comradery it created with a team that acted more like family.

"Our team had so much talent, but I think what made the biggest impact was our team chemistry," said Borman, a sports administration major. "It is a great environment to play in when your team is more like family and when your hard work is leading towards a common goal."

The underclassmen looked up to this group of seniors, relying on them to pull them through even the toughest times and allowing them to lead the team to victory. Sophomore health sciences major Ella Baggett

spoke of the leadership displayed by this group of seniors.

"The seniors served as a great core for our team and carried with them a sense of experience and leadership," said Baggett. "When we struggled, they kept us motivated and focused on our goal of being among the 6 percent of college athletes who get to participate in the NCAA Tournament."

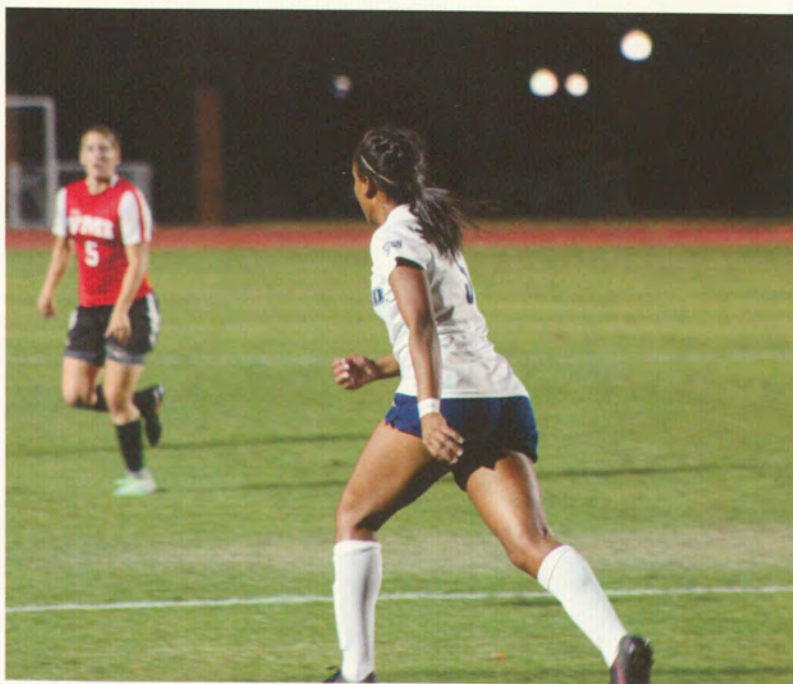
Although they ultimately lost their tournament game, the experience was more than enough to propel the team into preparation for the next season.

*Article by Meg Van Dyk*

*Photos by Claire Browning*







### *Anniversary Fact*

The women's soccer team was established in 1997 and in 20 years, the team has played in four NCAA tournaments.



# Women's Basketball





The women's basketball team focused on their theme of "finishing through the line" last season.

The team beat Georgia in the beginning of the season and finished strong by making it to the semifinal of the Southern Conference Tournament at the end of the season.

"It was unreal to go into a big SEC gym and take it to them," said senior Spanish major Ellen Riggins. "We played confidently and strongly with several of our younger players really contributing and making the win happen."

The team had some low points they had to bind together to overcome.

"One of the coolest yet hardest parts of the season was the story of our senior Lydia McGee," said Riggins. "She has battled countless injuries during her career, and this year had an intense surgery that the doctors said would take her out of her final season."

But no injury could keep McGee off the court as she rehabbed her knee and returned to the court to play her final season as a Samford Bulldog.

"My teammates were incredible," said McGee. "They would ask me questions during practice and tell me to coach them up, just so I could be involved."

With the veteran's experience and the talented group of newcomers that contributed a lot, the team truly finished through the line.

"Every year requires adjusting to new players and a search for team identity, and this year was no different," said Riggins. "However, our new girls became integral parts of our squad and together we formed one of the most hard working and passionate teams I've ever known."

They beat third-ranked East Tennessee State University in the first round of the conference tournament and gave number two-ranked Mercer a run for their money in the semifinal game.

"We never gave up and never stopped believing in each other and I think it paid off when we made a run in the tournament," said senior sports administration major Hannah Nichols. "That definitely gave us something to remember and look forward to and also work towards in the off season for next year."

*Article by Erin Bognar*

*Photos by Sarah Ferrell*



*Anniversary Fact: The women's basketball team played its first game in 1997 and celebrated its 20th anniversary on campus in 2017.*



# Men's Basketball



It was a record-setting year for the men's basketball team as they won their first post-season game in school history in the 2017 College Insider.com Postseason Tournament. The Bulldogs also broke multiple records in points scored, field-goal attempts, assists and free throws.

As part of the team's first winning season since 2006, they strung together the most victories in 11 years with a record of 20-16.

Despite being a fresh young team with three new transfers, the basketball team had a lot of success. While most athletic teams might have chemistry issues with such a new roster, the men thrived through their new team dynamics.

Sophomore pre-business major and third team All-Southern Conference team member Wyatt Walker and junior public administration major Christen Cunningham were both big contributors to the team's success.

"The theme of this season was 'play forward' and we stressed that going into every single game," said Walker. "The next play, the next half, the next game. Next, next, next. We couldn't afford to get caught up in the past whether it was good or bad."

The team enjoyed highlights throughout the season including big wins and new records.

"I think the high point of this year was beating Furman in the conference tournament because they were the regular season champs and we had lost twice to them during the regular season," said Cunningham.

Gerald Smith, junior journalism and mass communication major, believed that although the season was a breakout season, the future would be brighter as 13 out of 14 players would return for another season.

"Our mindset was always to get better to win a championship throughout the year. Although we didn't reach that goal, the success we had this year has motivated us next year to be even better. This year has kick-started a lot of future success with our program," said Smith.

"Next year will be the best season Samford basketball has ever had in my opinion," said Walker. "If the team comes together, stays healthy and plays forward, the sky is the limit."

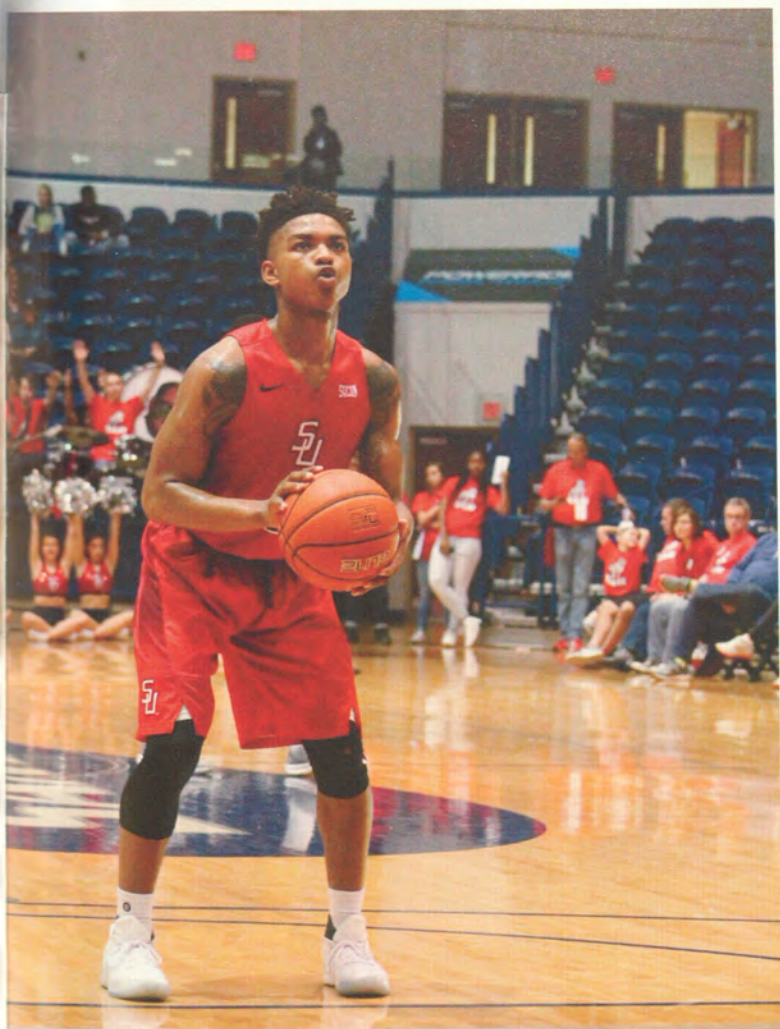
*Article by Erin Bognar*

*Photos by Sarah Ferrell*

*Entre Nous*



*Anniversary Fact:* Men's basketball began in 1901 and has appeared in two NCAA tournaments since then.





# Baseball

Samford baseball created a legacy program for the university. The Bulldogs were the highest winning Division I program in the state of Alabama since 2011 and had 19 players selected in the MLB draft over the course of a six-year span.

2016 was no different as three players were selected in the 2016 MLB draft. Despite losing some key talent, the 2017 baseball team began with a talented roster and strung together another successful season.

"My favorite thing about this team is by far the chemistry that we have formed with each other and with our coaches," said junior All-American Austin Edens. "We hold ourselves accountable so our coaches don't have to as much as in the past, which has created a great team atmosphere."

The team and coaches believe that chemistry played an important role in a successful season.

"The goal this season is to get better every day because we are so young and so we are not sure what the ceiling is for the team," said junior pre-season All Conference pitcher Wyatt Burns. "The team has good chemistry. There are not a lot of individual players because most of the guys just want the team to be the best it can."

The Bulldogs defeated Auburn, one of the top ten teams in the country, early in the season and barely lost to them later in the season in front of a school-record crowd of 2,645 fans by a score of 16-15. Samford holds a 7-5 victorious margin over Auburn.

They also won series against Kansas, Indiana, and crosstown rivals Alabama and UAB.

The team boasted a young and talented lineup with ten new freshmen and three transfers. The team relied on newcomer talent but also relied heavily on all the returning players, including junior public administration major and starting centerfielder TJ Dixon.

"Going into the year missing seven of the nine starters, we knew we were going to have a young but very talented team," said Dixon. "The young guys really brought in from the beginning and have been playing loose all year and it's really nice to see the future of Samford is bright."

*Article by Erin Bognar*

*Photos by Alyssa Hall*







*Anniversary Fact:*  
22 Samford baseball players have  
been picks in the MLB draft since  
it began in 1965.



# Softball





The softball team traveled all over the South to compete against some of the top-level teams in the country.

In 2016, the softball team had a historic season with its first ever conference championship. The team graduated five starters who earned All-SoCon awards, the Southern Conference pitcher of the year and player of the year.

Although the team was new, it still had the talent and teamwork to set high goals in hopes of repeating as conference champions.

"This year we have had to overcome adversity by filling a new line up," said junior health sciences major and pitcher Jessica Stone. "We had a lot of seniors graduate last year and this is a new team."

Despite losing a lot of talent, the team had a successful season with upperclassmen returners and 10 freshmen and sophomores on the roster.

"We beat Indiana, a big ten school. We swept Chattanooga, that was a huge conference series for us to win," said Stone.

"A high point of this season would be beating Indiana," said sophomore journalism and mass communication major Kelsey Royalty. "Or coming back from a loss series against Furman to sweep Chattanooga at Chattanooga."

The team beat non-conference opponents Missouri State, Iowa State, Indiana University, Central Arkansas, University of Massachusetts, Eastern Illinois, Western Illinois and UT Martin.

Another highlight of the season was the success of Shelby Maze, a junior health sciences major who led the Southern Conference and at one point, the nation, in hits.

"My coaches are awesome with having reports prepared for us before games so we are aware of what the pitcher will probably throw to us," Maze said. "Also, my teammates that bat ahead of me are always so helpful with letting me know what they saw and what I should expect. I would not be as successful without their help."

The team worked as a cohesive unit to ensure the best season possible.

"The key to this year's team success is the fact that we have learned to play together and have each other's back," said Maze. "We realize that this is a team sport and it will take everyone giving all they have to be successful."

*Article by Erin Bogнар*

*Photos by Alyssa Hall*



**Anniversary Fact:** The softball team's first NCAA tournament appearance was in the Southern Conference Championships in 2016, which it won.





2016 was a historic season for both the men's and women's cross country teams. The teams participated in six meets from September to November in places like Chattanooga, Tennessee; Fayetteville, Arkansas; Tuscaloosa, Alabama; and Tallahassee, Florida.

On Oct. 31, the teams put together the best-collective finish ever at the Southern Conference with both teams finishing second overall. Junior biochemistry major Karisa Nelson won her first-ever cross country championship and earned the title of SoCon Women's Runner of the Year, winning the 5K in 16 minutes and 22 seconds. On the men's side, senior economics major Arsene Guillorel, senior sports administration major Brandon Hazouri and sophomore sports administration major Ben Bryant secured top-eight finishes to lead the men's team.

"Honestly, I was very satisfied with how this year's cross country season turned out. Although we fell short of a conference championship, the team succeeded nonetheless," said junior finance major Josh Salter. "Each individual improved not only upon his or her fitness, but also in (their) contribution to the team."

On Nov. 11, the team competed at the NCAA South Regional Meet in Tallahassee, Florida. It was Nelson and Guillorel who led the women's and men's teams to another successful finish. The women finished 8th overall after entering the meet ranked 14<sup>th</sup>, while the men finished sixth place overall ahead of schools like Auburn, Georgia Tech and Tennessee. It was the highest finish ever for both the women's and men's team. Nelson and Guillorel both placed fourth overall, securing their spot in the National Championships.

"Cross country is always a fun atmosphere because we have such a close group," said junior exercise science major Emma Garner. "We all worked really hard to get stronger and stay healthy as the season went on, which helped us place second at the Conference meet, where Karisa Nelson led us with a first place individual finish. Regionals was a learning experience for the team, since we are so young, but with Karisa qualifying for nationals, we were excited to see a Samford jersey at the National Championships."

Following the regional meet, Nelson and Guillorel traveled to Terra Haute, Indiana, as individual representatives for Samford in the National Championship meet. Nelson finished 107<sup>th</sup> overall in a very difficult race while Guillorel improved from his previous appearance and finished 57<sup>th</sup> overall.

"I really have enjoyed the past four years running cross country," said Hazouri. "It has taught me a multitude of things from being disciplined, to hard work, to patience, but most importantly it has taught me to appreciate relationships. The times I have spent with my teammates are times that I will never forget and always cherish. I'm so thankful to be a Samford Bulldog."

*Article by Paul Richardson*

*Photos contributed by Paul Richardson*



*Anniversary Fact:* The teams' second place Southern Conference wins were their best-ever finishes.





# Track and Field

The men's and women's track and field teams turned in record setting performances during the indoor season and continued their success in the outdoor season.

The women won their second straight Southern Conference indoor championship by a convincing margin.

The season was capped off by Samford's first-ever national championship winner. Junior biochemistry major Karisa Nelson took home first place in the indoor mile after running her record time of 4:31.24 at the 2017 NCAA Indoor National Championships.

"I'm really happy that I won because it means a lot for Samford too. It means that we can compete with the best track schools in the nation and the size of the school and the amount of money the program has doesn't matter," said Nelson. "You can still be as successful as you want to be, you just have to make sure you do everything you can to get better."

The women finished the season ranked No. 21 in the country after their success in the Southern Conference and nationally.

The men also had a successful season as they finished second place in the indoor Southern Conference championships.

Junior foods and nutrition major and All-American Tray Oates joined Nelson at the indoor NCAA national championships.

"The best part was probably seeing Karisa win the mile," said Oates.

Oates turned in an impressive performance that earned him eighth place in the national finish in the men's pole vault.

"The high point of this season was seeing the extensive depth we have in our team and how well our new guys showed out," said Oates.

Both the women's and the men's teams continued their successful indoor season into the outdoor season as many of the team members

posted personal-bests and finished on top of the competition.

"I think this year we'll send a record number of guys to regionals and nationals," Oates said about outdoor season.

Junior journalism and mass communication major and track standout Marquis Barnes agreed with Oates. "We are resting up and continuing to train hard so we can bring Samford back another championship," said Barnes.

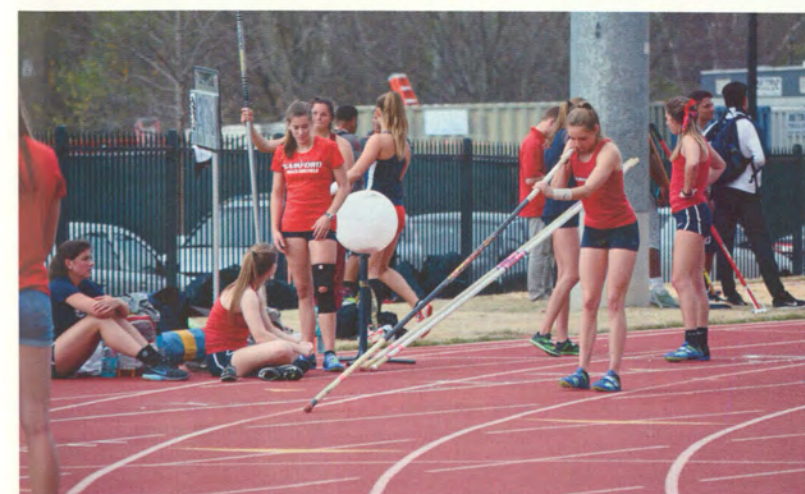
The Southern Conference Outdoor Track and Field championships were held at Samford to close out the season.

*Article by Erin Bogнар*

*Photos by Maddie Sundberg*







*Anniversary Fact:*  
 Karisa Nelson's mile run was  
 the first Division I NCAA  
 championship in Samford's history.



# Women's Tennis

The women's tennis team had a successful season with an overall record of 13-10.

In addition to their scoring successes, three team members also won SoCon post-season awards for their efforts on and off the court. Junior health sciences major Ellie Gerlach was named first team All SoCon, junior biology major Annika Hepp received second team All SoCon honors and freshman business major Elsa Pool received an offer for the All-Freshman team.

One of the highlights of their season was the conference game against Chattanooga. After three straight wins, this game gave them four consecutive wins and a 4-3 SoCon record during the regular season.

"I think the highlight of our season was beating Chattanooga in the conference tournament," said freshman business major Grace Jennings. "We had just beat them the week before, but this time more pressure was on with it being in the actual tournament. I think all of us were pretty nervous."

However, with the support of the Samford community and some unexpected attendees, the team overcame Chattanooga for a second time with confidence and grace.

"The tournament was held at Wofford and the Samford baseball team was playing there too, but later in the day," said Jennings. "The baseball team was so awesome and came to cheer

us on during doubles, which totally freaked out Chattanooga's team. It was so cool for another sport to come cheer us on at such a big match."

With five freshmen building the foundation of the team as sophomores for the next season, the ladies of women's tennis look forward to growing and developing with confidence in the upcoming years.

*Article by Hallie King*

*Photos by Alyssa Hall*

*Anniversary Fact: Junior Ellie Gerlach and freshman Elsa Pool were each named SoCon Players of the week at different points in the season.*





# Men's Tennis



The men's tennis team consisted of eight players including three new freshmen and five juniors.

Junior biology major Luke Orthner walked on during the spring semester. This was a rebuilding year for the tennis team after four seniors graduated who previously held the first, second and fourth places on the team.

"Our bottom of the line up from the previous year was now playing in the top three spots and we had three new freshmen on top of that," said junior graphic design major Austin Heinz. The freshmen had to learn quickly because they were needed on the team. They played every game.

"We grew a lot throughout the whole season and the team we started with in January changed so much for the better by the time it was time for our conference tournament," said Heinz.

The men's tennis team is 50 percent comprised of international students representing four different countries including Australia, Portugal, Ecuador and Canada. Canadian coach Rahim Esmail graduated from the University of Kentucky and made it to the top 10 in the country as a tennis player.

"College sports at Samford, or America as a whole, are a great way to give an opportunity for young people to pursue their passions while still getting a degree," said junior economics major Jake Faundez, an international student from Australia. "It's the best of both worlds. I'm grateful to Samford for giving me the opportunity to do what I love while educating me to get ready for the real world."

*Article by Emilie White*

*Photos by Alyssa Hall*

**Anniversary Fact:** The men's tennis team won seven of their nine home games during the 2017 season.



# Women's Golf

*Anniversary Fact:* The women's golf team made it to the 2017 Southern Conference championship, where it placed sixth.

The women's golf team was comprised of six talented girls: one senior, two juniors, two sophomores and a freshman. The members of the team came from states all across the Southeast including Georgia, Florida, North Carolina, Texas and Louisiana.

The team competed in twelve tournaments this year, including conference. The best round of the season was in Pinehurst, North Carolina, at the Pinehurst Challenge. The team members agreed that Pinehurst was their favorite tournament.

"I loved Pinehurst because we shot 281, which tied our record low score as a team," freshman nursing major Hallianne Hobson said.

"Pinehurst was so much fun. It's a cool place with lots of history," junior finance major Maddie Davis said. "I was also so proud of how our team played collectively."

The best finish in competition was second place at the Samford Spring Shootout. The tournament was held at Greystone Golf and Country Club. The team shot rounds of 303 and 301.

The team had 10 top-10 finishes, an individual stroke average of 75.90 and a team stroke average of 303.62. They enjoyed reflecting on their year once the season ended. It was a bonding experience for the entire team because it was such a small and tight-knit group.

"I will miss the memories I have gotten to make with my five favorite girls in the world," senior biology major Haley Harrington said. "I'll miss laughing and singing in the van. I have cried 'til I laughed and laughed 'til I cried; I've done it all."

*Article by Kate Collom*

*Photos by Katie Roth*





# Men's Golf



This season, the men's golf team competed in 10 tournaments. They had an individual stroke average of 75.45 and team average of 301.81.

Senior finance and economics major Garrett Moores led the team with a scoring average of 75.25. Moores won the Grover Page Invitational with scores of 70-70-72, totaling four under par.

"Winning a tournament as an individual was an awesome experience. The weather was terrible and I had to overcome a lot of adversity to stay focused," said Moores. "When I was a freshman I had one main goal: to win a golf tournament. At the time I thought I would win multiple and didn't. Those failures made this win feel even better."

The Bulldogs ended with four top-10 finishes. Their best finish was second place at the Grover Page Invitational, which was held at Jackson Country Club in Martin, Tennessee.

The low round of the team was 281 at the Sam Hall Intercollegiate.

"My favorite tournament was in Houston

because we got to fly there and play a course that hosts a big time tour event," said freshman finance major Alec Stopperich.

The Bulldogs finished third in the Samford Intercollegiate held at Greystone Golf and Country Club, shooting scores of 297-298-304.

Even outside of tournaments and competition, the golfers enjoyed spending time with one another and appreciating the game.

"I love practicing every day and doing my best out there. Golf is so much fun, especially when you get to compete with all your friends. I wouldn't change it for the world," said freshman accounting major Harlan Winn.

"I will miss the relationships I've made with all of my teammates. Looking back years from now, I won't remember what anybody shot," said Moores, "but I will remember the friendships and the memories we made together."

*Article by Kate Collom*

*Photos contributed by Hannah Garrett*

*Anniversary Fact: Freshman Harlan Winn was named to the Southern Conference All- Freshman team after competing in the championship.*



# Club Sports

Club sports provided an opportunity for students to play sports on campus without being student athletes. Students of all skill sets and abilities are invited to join clubs and play on the teams throughout the year.

Students from every corner of campus joined club teams to be involved in sports they never played in the past or to pick up sports they played in high school.

"I think club sports are an integral part of Samford because it gives students who may not be good enough to play division one sports, but loved playing sports in high school, a chance to stay active and still be part of a team," said Christina VanWingerden, a junior engineering physics major and women's lacrosse captain. "It is also a great way to meet people that you might not have met if it wasn't for the club sport."

Club sports provided a unique opportunity for students to be involved in a team whether or not they took on a leadership role.

"Club sports have given me a better realization of what it means to be a leader," said senior journalism and mass communication major Carter Jackson. "You do not always have to be the president of the organization. People need you to just be you and do what you do well."

The teams competed against each other on campus, against other clubs in Birmingham and in competitions across the South with men's, women's and co-ed groups. Each team worked to grow in number and strength throughout the year and in the years to come.



Entre Nous

*Samford Club Sports:*  
Rugby Club  
Women's Ultimate Club  
Men's Ultimate Club  
Soccer Club  
Outdoor Club  
Swimming Club  
Bass Fishing Club  
Women's Lacrosse Club  
Men's Lacrosse Club  
Samford Crew Club  
Samford Golf Club

"I look forward to recruiting more people, teaching more people these incredible sports and making new connections and friends," said Carter Rae, a junior chemistry major and captain of the men's ultimate frisbee team. "I also look forward to pushing our limits to go even further than last year."

*Article by Hallie King*

*Photos by Maddie Sundberg*



Athletics



# SAMSPYs



*Anniversary Fact: 2017 was the eighth annual SAMSPYs Samford Athletics Awards banquet.*

Twenty-one awards were given out to athletes, coaches, teams, administrators and staff members at the annual SAMSPYs athletic awards banquet.

Team academic awards were given to men's and women's golf. Allie Lourie of women's soccer won the female rookie award and Emmanuel Tait from track and field won the male rookie award. Sam Pettway won comeback of the year for the football team and Karel Hamilton, also from the football team, was named breakthrough athlete.

Alex Peters from the basketball team won the Jim Griffin Award for behind-the-scenes leader of the team. The best bloopers award for videos from the season went to the softball team. They also won most outstanding team and coach Mandy Burford won head coach of the year.

Strength and conditioning coach Thomas Rohling won the support staff award while Jake Headrick won the assistant coach award for men's basketball. Gary Atkins, assistant vice president for student affairs, won faculty member of the year for his contributions to athletics.

Erin Bognar won play of the year for her final kill in the SoCon Volleyball Championship game. Ben Carrick won the best finish award for his walk-off homerun against Alabama in baseball.

Karisa Nelson, Samford's first-ever national champion, took home three awards: best championship performance, best upset and female athlete of the year for her national championship win in the women's indoor track and field mile. Jermaine Seoposenwe also won female athlete of the year after participating in the 2016 Rio Olympics.

Tray Oates won male athlete of the year after placing fourth at the Olympic Trials and qualifying for the NCAA Championships in pole vault.

Ellen Riggins from the basketball team and Tyler Small from the football team closed the awards by winning the Mr. and Miss Bulldog awards, for not only succeeding in athletics but also in the classroom and the community.

"I'm truly thankful to have been chosen as Miss Bulldog," said Riggins. "The fact is, lots of people deserved this honor. I'm mostly reminded through the award how special this university and the athletics department are and how unbelievably lucky I have been to have these teammates and experiences."

*Article by Erin Bognar*

*Photos by Hallie King*



# GREEK LIFE

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# Recruitment





The 2016-17 school year brought hundreds of students to partake in recruitment for Greek Life, each seeking their fraternal house to call home during their time at Samford.

Each of the Greek Houses was blanketed under the Panhellenic Council, the Interfraternity Council and the National Pan-Hellenic Council. This year was the first season of formal recruitment for Delta Delta Delta, which offered students a broader spectrum of houses under the Panhellenic Council.

Beginning at the start of the first semester, recruitment brought a buzz to campus. Students eagerly awaited their evening activities, which included social events, parties and conversation to get to know potential brothers and sisters.

"The atmosphere during recruitment is different because that is the only time Greek life seems more separated from the rest of the student body," said sophomore nutrition and dietetics major and Phi Mu Sydney Smith. "I know when I was a freshman going through rush, the first couple of weeks it seems like that is all anyone is talking about but afterwards everything dies down."

Recruitment was a time of excitement for students to see themselves or their friends go through the process. Junior journalism and mass communication major and Alpha Omicron Pi member Emma Pohlman described recruitment as "a crazy and tiring experience but a fantastic way to meet new people, have a new experience and find a place you can call home."

The relationships formed during recruitment didn't end on bid day; they continued to develop throughout the year.

"Sometimes it's hard to get to know someone in a short amount of time," said sophomore journalism and mass communication major Maddie Ramsey. "But being able to meet all these new people on campus through recruitment can give someone a familiar face to see on campus even if you only talked to them for a short time."

Even though recruitment only lasted a week in the fall, the Greek houses continued working on upcoming recruitment throughout the year. Whether students decided to rush or not, recruitment was an exciting experience for all those who went through it.

*Article by Natascha Anderson*  
*Photos by Mary Hailey Sinyard*



*Anniversary Fact:* Approximately 45 percent of the student population at Samford is Greek-affiliated.





# Panhellenic

The Panhellenic Council has spent decades providing support and guidance for sororities on an international level. The organization serves as an umbrella over 26 sororities, six of which reside on Samford's campus as well as one associate sorority: Alpha Delta Pi, Alpha Omicron Pi, Phi Mu, Chi Omega, Delta Delta Delta, Zeta Tau Alpha and Delta Xi Phi.

Panhellenic at Samford prided itself on being purposeful, faithful and real. They promoted scholarship, served the Samford community and maintained good conduct across campus. These ideals were proved as the Panhellenic community extended far beyond the walls of each individual house on campus.

"Panhellenic can bring a lot to campus because it allows students to be involved in something they believe in," said sophomore nutrition and dietetics major Sydney Smith. "It provides students with a lot of opportunities for service in our community through their philanthropy and other events."

In addition, women from every sorority could serve in leadership rolls through Panhellenic in order to better Samford Greek Life as a whole.

Alpha Omicron Pi member Sarah McFarland, a sophomore pre-business major, acted as the assistant recruitment chair for her sorority and worked with the other recruitment chairs to better the experience for potential new members.

"It's always exciting to come together (with the other sororities) and work with everyone's unique strengths to better the entirety of Greek Life," said McFarland.

Junior journalism and mass communication major Emma Pohlman served on the 2016 Panhellenic Operations Team to ensure that recruitment operated to its fullest potential.

"It is a lot of training and preparation but extremely rewarding on bid day when you get to see girls run to their new families," said Pohlman.

Panhellenic ensures that every sorority member finds their on-campus home with new friends to call their forever sisters.

*Article by Natascha Anderson*

*Photos contributed by Alyssa Hall and Mary Hailey Sinyard*



*Anniversary Fact:* The Panhellenic Council was established in 1902, and Samford's council recruits members for six campus sororities.





# Alpha Omicron Pi

With a vision of changing the future and building lifelong friendships, the sisters of the Alpha Omicron Pi Rho Delta chapter served on and off Samford's campus in a variety of ways. With 173 members, Rho Delta's diversity manifested unique relationships and opportunities for leadership.

"We have such a mixture of personalities and people in our chapter," said sophomore pre-business major Sarah McFarland. "It is really easy to meet and become friends with so many different types of people."

With an emphasis on philanthropy, AOII actively supported the Arthritis Foundation. In the fall, the chapter put on "AOII Goes Blue" week with events such as "Pie a Pi" partnered with Pi Kappa Phi and a concert on the quad. In the spring, the highly anticipated "Strike Out" event took place at the Birmingham Barons field, riddling the stadium with Samford students.

However, outside of philanthropy events, social events brought much more than cute Instagram posts to the sisters of AOII. The year brought events such as a taco mixer with ATO, a throwback themed date party and mom's weekend.

AOII's social chair Mary Emma Campbell said the best part of planning events was working with her committee.

"They are so helpful and willing to do anything to help make the events soar," said Campbell, a sophomore human development and family science major. "Working with other Leadership Cabinet members in AOII has been really great as well. They are all so supportive and it is such a positive working environment."

Although these events brought fun costumes, tasty food and weekend excursions, it was the shared experiences with sisters that made them so memorable.

"It's nice to take a break from our busy schedules and just hang out together," said

freshman communication studies major Mary Brand. Whether this be at chapter on Sundays or waving to a sister across Ben Brown, the community fostered in AOII extends far beyond the physical walls of the house.

"It's been a constant support system for me," said junior journalism and mass communication major Olivia Odom. "I hope to carry on the kind and loving spirit I have experienced and seen from our chapter."

While the sisters of AOII continued to excel in organizations across campus and opportunities outside of Samford, their greatest strength was their members.

*Article by Natascha Anderson*

*Photos contributed by Hannah Hutson and Rachel Williams*







*Anniversary Fact:*  
Alpha Omicron Pi was founded on  
Jan. 2, 1897 and the Rho Delta  
chapter was chartered at Samford  
on May 7, 1995.



# Alpha Delta Pi





The words “first, finest, forever” resonated across campus with regard to Samford’s Kappa chapter of Alpha Delta Pi. The sisters of ADPi were figureheads throughout Samford serving in leadership roles in many different organizations.

“In ADPi we not only encourage each other to be involved within the sorority, but also on campus and in Birmingham,” said sophomore journalism and mass communication major Hattie Breece.

By genuinely applying ADPi’s values, Kappa’s sisterhood is intentional with its motto, “We live for each other.”

“My favorite part of ADPi is the community,” said sophomore psychology major Marti Hardin. “It sounds cliché, but my sisters have poured love and kindness into me and I strive to be like my sisters.”

This love and support directly translated to the success of the chapter. They won the Samford Chapter of the Year award and were also chosen as most decorated chapter of ADPi nationally, proving that ADPi was more than a ritual but rather a way of life.

The sisters of Kappa took their once every four year pilgrimage to Macon, Georgia. This adventure literally took Kappa back to their roots as they visited Wesleyan Female College, which houses the first ADPi chapter. In addition, the trip included a stop at the Cannonball House, furnished with original relics from Wesleyan’s ADPi chapter. The trip placed an emphasis on ADPi’s values and active practice of bonds carried out for 166 years in a sisterhood event unlike any other.

Although Kappa remained a focal point of leadership and success across campus, members of ADPi considered their most treasured asset relationships within the sorority.

“(Kappa) isn’t a set of cookie-cutter girls. Within the sisterhood I’ve found girls that are my forever friends and a home where I belong,” said sophomore nursing major Riley Weldon.

“ADPi has shaped my Samford experience by giving me a place that I am proud to call home amongst the craziness that is college,” said Breece, “and is helping to shape me into the woman I want to be when I graduate.”

*Article by Natascha Anderson*

*Photos contributed by Lauren Hammond*



*Anniversary Fact: Alpha Delta Pi was established at Wesleyan College in 1851 and Samford’s chapter was founded on campus in 1910.*



# Chi Omega



The Chi Omega Zeta Zeta chapter had a busy and productive year. The chapter was able to flourish through philanthropy, campus and community involvement, academic success and more. A highlight of the chapter's year was the implementation of a brand new event benefiting its philanthropy, Make-A-Wish Alabama. On Sept. 29, Chi O Carnival took place on the intramural fields. The event included games, live music, food trucks and vendors. This successful event uplifted Chi Omega's philanthropy and brought the Samford community together as well. Sarrah Weston, Chi Omega philanthropy chair, said she hopes this will become an annual event.

"In 2016, Chi Omega Zeta Zeta was given the chance to live on purpose and make a difference through Make-A-Wish Alabama. We raised about \$6,000 and saw how that money can truly impact a child during the Wish Send-Off Party," said Weston, a junior management major. "Through unity and sisterhood, we were also able to take a leap of faith and kick-start Chi O Carnival."

The chapter also hosted its regular spring philanthropy event, Chi O Closet, on March 30-31. This event included multitudes of donated items for sale. All proceeds from this event benefited Make-A-Wish Alabama.

At the annual Samford Greek Awards, Chi Omega was given awards for alumni relations and outstanding campus involvement. Emily Cullum, Chi Omega's president, said Chi Omegas were present in 70 different groups on campus.

"Chi Omega is proud to claim members that serve as Connections leaders, SGA class presidents and representatives, student athletes on seven different teams and Chi Omegas are found in almost every honor society, club and major on campus," junior human development and family science major Cullum said. "Chi Omega constantly strives to embrace women and allow them to refine their passions and develop their leadership abilities on campus and serve in leadership positions in many organizations, all while remaining loyal to one another and congruent in our values."

Chi Omega looks forwards to continuing the chapter's success in the coming years.

*Article by Sarah Tuttle*

*Photos contributed by Sarah Tuttle*



*Anniversary Fact:* Chi Omega was founded at the University of Arkansas in 1895 and established a chapter on Samford's campus in 1963.





# Phi Mu

Phi Mu's goal as an organization was to make a positive impact in the community as well as around campus. The actions were driven by the values and spirit of the organization: to be academically focused, civic minded and fully aware of peers so that the organization could better serve the people in the community and on campus.

"Here in Phi Mu I have not only found my best friends, but also have made my best memories through serving as president, participating in Step Sing or intramurals and running in our annual 5K fundraiser," said junior communication sciences and disorders major Nicole Klaubert.

Phi Mu's various philanthropy events were one way in which the chapter engaged with the community. Phi Mu hosted three annual events to raise funds as well as awareness for Children's Miracle Network Hospitals. A car wash, 5k run and trick-or-treating for pocket change on Halloween allowed the Samford community to be involved with the philanthropy and the Birmingham community.

In addition to the annual events, Phi Mu also found new ways to raise money and awareness on campus such as the Roses for Riches event on Valentine's Day. Phi Mu philanthropy chair Katie Rowe worked diligently to ensure all of these events were successful.

"It puts my trials and daily hardships into perspective," said Rowe, a junior nursing major. "Leading (this) incredible chapter to add even a little bit of hope to these families' struggles is a blessing."

The Alpha Gamma chapter of Phi Mu was ranked first in the nation for CMNH fundraising for the past three years.

Phi Mu also strived to engage with the Samford community through campus involvement. This was represented through the *Entre Nous*

members of the chapter and their commitment to excellence. As a result, members were blessed with the opportunity to be involved with various campus organizations such as Student Government Association, Debate Team, Mock Trial Team, Student Recruitment Team, University Fellows program, Office of Spiritual Life and Miss Samford. The 2016 and 2017 Miss Samford winners, both members of Phi Mu, represented Samford in competing for the title of Miss Alabama.

Phi Mu is a diverse group of women with varying interests, but they work together for the betterment of the people around them.

*Article by Malee Galloway*

*Photos by Maddie Sundberg*







*Anniversary Fact:*  
 Phi Mu was founded at Wesleyan  
 College in 1852 and established  
 a chapter at Samford on Oct. 23,  
 1924.



# Zeta Tau Alpha





The sisters of the Delta Psi chapter of Zeta Tau Alpha embody the lines of their creed "to prepare for service and learn the nobility of serving" by being stewards of their time and efforts on campus. Throughout the year, the sorority strived to make a difference through over 6,000 service and volunteer hours raising funds for their philanthropy, Breast Cancer Education and Awareness. This past year the sorority raised approximately \$15,000 through their annual Mr. Samford pageant, Volley for a Cure, information tables in Ben Brown Plaza and various other fundraisers. All proceeds went to research efforts.

Aside from Breast Cancer Education and Awareness, the Delta Psi sisters of ZTA participated in service projects such as Samford Gives Back, Operation Christmas Child, Valentines for Veterans, chemo baskets and writing cards to Sodexo workers. Members also strived to support other sororities and fraternities on campus in their philanthropy efforts.

"Zeta has allowed me to grow into the leader I am today," said Mallory Killiam, a junior secondary education and social sciences major. "I have learned the importance of working in a team to achieve a large goal. I am so blessed by the relationships that I have formed in my three years in Zeta. I truly cherish the memories with the girls who have encouraged and loved me. I can't imagine my Samford story without Zeta Tau Alpha."

Zeta Tau Alpha impacts its members long-term. The sisterhood encourages life-long friendships, serves as a second family for members far from home and ensures some of the best college memories over the course of four years.

"Being an only child, I was nervous beginning college and didn't know what to expect," said Lindsey Anderson, a senior journalism and mass communication major. "Through my experience with Zeta, I've found my home away from home and couldn't imagine a better way to spend my four years."

Its advisers impact the sorority in a large way, and in return, the sorority impacts the advisers. Amanda Moulin has served as General Adviser for 10 years and said she continues to serve because she loves mentoring collegiate women and encouraging them to reach their fullest potential.

"The most rewarding part about advising is helping build up the women around you so they can attain their personal and chapter goals," said Moulin.

In the future, Zeta Tau Alpha's Delta Psi chapter will strive to continue impacting the Samford community as well as the Birmingham community while raising awareness and funds for their beloved philanthropy, Breast Cancer Awareness.

*Article by Hannah Garrett*

*Photos by Alyssa Hall*



**Anniversary Fact:** Zeta Tau Alpha was founded on Oct. 15, 1898 and was established at Samford in 1965.



A photograph of three young women from behind, wearing blue shirts, holding a large yellow banner with blue Greek letters. They are outdoors on a grassy area with trees in the background. The title "Delta Delta Delta" is overlaid in a large, white, serif font.

# Delta Delta Delta

The Epsilon Xi chapter of Delta Delta Delta was established on Samford's campus during the fall of 2016. Tri Delta had over 50 founding members excited to see how the chapter would grow and develop across campus.

The chapter's legacy at Samford slowly developed into a chartered sorority in 2016. From Bid Day the new members became sisters on the quad and sweet memories were shared at the New Member Retreat. The chapter felt welcomed by all other Greek organizations on campus.

"My favorite thing about Tri Delta is the platform the sorority gives us to display our personalities and gifts in various ways. I love that the sisterhood consists of women who have various backgrounds, interests, majors, personalities and future goals," said junior sociology major Julianna Greene. "In addition, I have greatly enjoyed the connections we have made with the other Greek organizations on campus. Mixers with other sororities and fraternities have been instrumental in establishing Greek unity and rapport on campus."

Bid Day was an exciting moment for everyone in the chapter. It was the first time the girls shared hugs and pictures with their sisters. The members ran into the arms of Greek friends holding up their names, officially welcoming Tri Delta to the Samford Greek community.

"I had formed several relationships throughout the recruitment process, but formally entering into and celebrating our sisterhood was so exciting," said Madison Webster, a sophomore English major.

Tri Delta's New Member Retreat was different than those of other sororities and fraternities on campus. The members did not go off campus; they simply gathered in a room on campus for a time of learning and leadership. They celebrated the community of sisters as they spent hours in the Howard Room developing new friendships and deepening their love for each other and Tri Delta.

"I hope to see our sorority's women be constantly confident in who we are and what we are about as we continue to mold Tri Delta at Samford and go forward in our lives as 'brave, bold and kind' women," said Greene.

The chapter was thankful for the opportunity they had to expand the Greek system at Samford and to continue to build purposeful relationships with each other.

*Article by Katie DiQuollo and Hallie King*

*Photos contributed by Preston Little and Mary Hailey Sinyard*

Entre Nous

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Greek Life



*Anniversary Fact:* Delta Delta Delta was founded in 1888, and 2016 was the chapter's inaugural year on campus.





# Delta Xi Phi

Delta Xi Phi Multicultural Sorority Incorporated has advocated for change on Samford's campus for years. With significant focus on intersectional feminism and collaboration with other organizations like Restoring Eden, the sorority consistently strived to promote more awareness on campus.

In the fall, they presented information about the Equal Rights Amendment and its importance in our society. Members discussed the continued relevance of feminism and why the ERA principally matters. Another table held by DXP concerned the harms of the Dakota Access Pipeline, presenting the detriments that the pipeline held both culturally and environmentally.

DXP also focused on philanthropy throughout the year. In December, the sorority hosted a Slam Poetry Night to benefit the Hope Lodge. This event was largely successful in collecting donations for the lodge's use in servicing families of cancer patients.

"I really liked the poetry event," said senior journalism and mass communication major Emily Thompson. "I've never been to one before, and as an amateur poet, it was cool to hear other people's poetry."

The sorority continued to serve the Hope Lodge in different capacities throughout the year.

"I really enjoyed serving dinner to the patients of the Hope Lodge," said senior English major Caroline Hammond. "It was nice being able to directly help people like that. I hope DXP continues to help out there for years to come."

Later in the spring, the sorority held a donation drive for Julia's Place. This drive, honoring Sexual Assault Awareness Month, delivered needed goods and funds to the local women's shelter to provide more opportunities for women and children.

Sisterhood also played a considerable role in DXP. In the early weeks of February, DXP hosted an event to "Write a letter to a Woman You Love" to promote the bonds of sisterhood between women.

"I have been able to meet inspiring women on the national scale, and to learn the strengths of my sisters here on campus," said senior entrepreneurship major Kate Laury. "DXP has a lot of potential to make change on this campus."

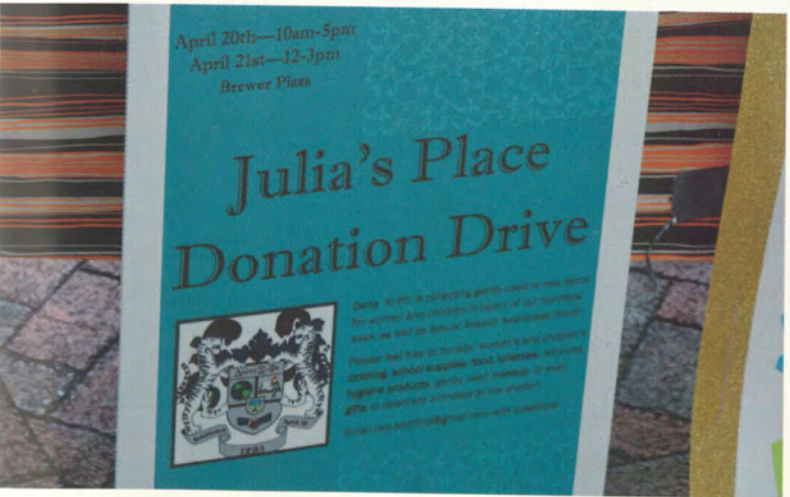
While DXP may not have the staggering member count of other Greek organizations, they were certainly a force to be reckoned with as they promoted their pillars around campus.

*Article by Jamie Davenport*

*Photos contributed by Jamie Davenport*







*Anniversary Fact:*  
Delta Xi Phi was founded on April 20, 1994 and was established on Samford's campus in May 2012.



# Interfraternity Council





The Interfraternity Council is a branch of the national representative conference of 66 fraternities across North America. Samford's council is comprised of five fraternities: Alpha Tau Omega, Lambda Chi Alpha, Pi Kappa Phi, Sigma Chi and Sigma Nu.

"The role of IFC is to facilitate growth of each fraternity on campus," said junior marketing major Wen Burnette. "This includes growth of members in individual fraternities, growth of image and standing to school administration."

In order to oversee all five fraternities in a consistent and unbiased manner, the council is composed of members from different fraternities and areas of Greek Life. It enforces general guidelines applicable to all fraternities. With bylaws in place, each fraternity is supported and encouraged to run with the same leadership.

"(We) represent the fraternity system as a whole (by) taking members from different Greek organizations," said Burnette. "IFC sets bylaws for each organization to operate under, a common fund for fraternities to use for certain approved events and fraternity member education as a whole."

Because the group is representative of five different Greek organizations, it allows each fraternity to share a common meeting point to come together, align their values and evaluate their roles on campus. It also offers members within the council the opportunity to be involved with other fraternities besides their own and build relationships with people from every area campus.

"What I enjoy most about the council is the opportunity to meet so many different students from other organizations and making friends through these relationships," said sophomore engineering physics major Paul Lamb. "I would not be easily able to meet people outside my fraternity otherwise."

The governing fraternity council on campus unites each brotherhood and initiates the formation of extrafraternal relationships across campus. With their leadership efforts and established guidelines, Samford's five fraternities under the umbrella of the North-American Interfraternity Conference operate in sync.

*Article by Hallie King*

*Photos by Sydney Griffin*

*Photos contributed by Elijah Bissell and Andrew Freeman*



**Anniversary Fact:** The Interfraternity Council governs five fraternities on campus as part of over 60 in the North-American Interfraternity Conference.





Samford's newest established fraternity, Alpha Tau Omega, is not just a group of guys but also a fellowship of brothers who strive for excellence in every area of their lives. They are considered a leadership development fraternity because of their intentional involvement on campus and in the community.

"I feel truly blessed to be able to serve such an encouraging, hard-working group of young men," said Brandon Lawson, a junior physics major and the president of ATO.

The group has transformed the college careers of every brother. Because of their young status on campus, they continue to build membership numbers and grow as an organization. It has allowed members the opportunities to become more involved on campus and uphold the fraternity's academic vigor. This year, ATO won Samford's Greek awards for "Chapter of the Year," "Highest Male GPA" and "Highest Standards."

"I think ATO has had so much success because we put our core values first," said sophomore pre-pharmacy major Evan Claxon. "We are committed to serving the community, pursuing high academics as well as personal growth. Putting these things first pushes all of us to make our chapter better, especially since we are trying to build a chapter that we want to remain successful in the future."

For many of the ATO brothers, community is what being in a fraternity is all about. Sophomore computer science major Andrew Freeman called them "a group of like-minded guys" serving the greater Birmingham area. Cornerstone Elementary School and Magic City Woodworks were blessed by their loyal presence and service for their philanthropy efforts through Tausgiving. Members also volunteered locally through a partnership with the American Red Cross.

"This is a group where you learn from each other, whether that's learning from their background or learning from their perspective," said sophomore communication studies major Blake Savage. "We have the unique opportunity to share life with each other in a truly meaningful way."

*Article by Isabella McLay and Hallie King*

*Photos by Sydney Griffin*

*Photos contributed by Andrew Freeman*



*Anniversary Fact:* Alpha Tau Omega was founded on Sept. 11, 1865 and was chartered on Samford's campus in 2015.





# Lambda Chi Alpha

The brothers of the Theta Alpha Zeta chapter of Lambda Chi Alpha set themselves apart from other fraternities on campus by developing their brothers into men of character with a no-hazing policy. They embody truth, justice and well-being while aiming to uphold honorable Christian values.

With a history dating back to the beginnings of Howard College, Lambda Chi remains an influential Greek organization. Despite their setbacks in years past and smaller membership numbers, the fraternity members hold themselves to a high standard with their campus leadership and involvement as well as their community service.

"On the outside looking in, you may see us as a fraternity that is struggling to grow," said freshman theatre major Dmarcus Crawford, "but we are constantly growing each semester."

Because of their smaller membership, it is easy for members to build relationships within the fraternity. Instead of rushing, Lambda Chi focuses on recruitment meetings to welcome new members each year. The emphasis is on the individual and their place within the fraternity, allowing each member to be himself and contribute to the group in his own way. These personal relationships create an unbreakable bond between the brothers.

"Because of our small size, I am really able to know all of the brothers on a personal level that is really cool," said freshman computer science major Chris Williams. "There is not a single brother who I would hesitate to call if I was in a pinch."

In addition to their personal relationships, Lambda Chi has also built relationships within the community. Each spring, the fraternity hosts the Lambda Chi Volleyball Classic, a philanthropy volleyball tournament supporting

different charities each year. The organization also regularly organizes food drives, festivals and volunteer work for groups like Children's Hospital, the American Cancer Society, Salvation Army and the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society.

With their hard work and dedication on and off campus, Lambda Chi hopes to continue recruiting more members and building a respectable and honorable reputation on campus.

"Lambda Chi is growing," said senior sports medicine major Austin Andersen, "and we want it to continue to grow and be prosperous on Samford's campus."

*Article by Hallie King*

*Photos contributed by Austin Andersen*







*Anniversary Fact:*  
After Phi Kappa Nu and other fraternities formed Theta Kappa Nu, the joint fraternity joined Lambda Chi Alpha in 1939 to form the Theta Alpha Zeta chapter.



# Sigma Chi





With values of friendship, justice and learning, the brothers of Sigma Chi strived to form relationships with each other, with the university and within the community. The students involved in the fraternity actively worked to develop leadership qualities and build character to become successful figures in their families, school and local surroundings.

The brothers of Sigma Chi beneficially impacted the campus on a daily basis. They served as leaders in the fraternity itself, in the classroom, on athletic teams and in campus organizations.

"While we are a very strong brotherhood that loves to be involved within the fraternity, we love to be involved in the Samford community," said sophomore journalism and mass communication major Will Davies. "We have brothers who are part of so many campus activities other than Greek Life. We have brothers who are Connections leaders, members of campus ministries, SGA, SRT, athletics, drama, honor societies and the list goes on and on."

In addition to campus involvement, the brothers of the fraternity also worked diligently to serve others off campus through service work and philanthropy. One of their most popular events, Derby Days, benefited the Huntsman Cancer Institute. They hosted a crawfish boil as well as played a charity bowl football game against Pi Kappa Phi. Proceeds also benefited Restoration Academy, a local school providing a Christian-based education for underprivileged students.

The relationships built between the brothers and other members of the university were their most influential contributions to campus. They have strong bonds with one another but branched outside of the fraternity to build relationships with those around them as well.

"I became a Sigma Chi sweetheart with Libby McBride, and to us the boys of the Sigma Chi Pi chapter are like our brothers," said sophomore journalism and mass communication major Summer Bennison. "They look out for us and we spoil them. Some of my favorite Samford memories have been made with the boys of Sigma Chi. I am proud to call them my best friends."

Because of these fruitful relationships, the brothers of Sigma Chi have established a positive position in the university for years to come.

*Article by Hallie King*

*Photos contributed by Elijah Bissell*



**Anniversary Fact:** Sigma Chi was founded on June 28, 1855 and was established at Samford in 1994.



# Pi Kappa Phi



Pi Kappa Phi Alpha Eta is a fraternity of brothers bonding over Proverbs 27:17, "as iron sharpens iron, so one man sharpens another."

The brothers supported one another in personal endeavors as well as group efforts. They worked diligently as leaders in the classroom, fraternity and community. They strived to be responsible and successful students and citizens representing Pi Kappa Phi in all aspect of their lives.

In addition to furthering their fraternity and brotherhood, Pi Kappa Phi continually worked to support their philanthropy, The Ability Experience. This organization was established as the national Pi Kappa Phi philanthropy and serves people with disabilities, working to enhance their quality of life. With an emphasis on athletics for those with disabilities, members of Pi Kappa Phi played and won a charity bowl football game against Sigma Chi to raise money and awareness for the organization.

Their bonds of brotherhood extended to the stage, too. Their 2017 dad-themed Step Sing Show, "The Greatest Job on Earth," won the fraternity their fourth Step Sing Sweepstakes Award in eight years. With highlights including a car wash, a dancing baby and a chorus of kazoos, it was a production well-deserving of the title.

Despite their efforts on campus and in the community, the fraternity's most valuable assets were its members.

"My favorite thing about my fraternity is the brotherhood we have," said junior public administration major and Pi Kappa Phi secretary Nelson Park. "A lot of these guys will be lifelong friends. I'm so thankful for the brotherhood that we all have."

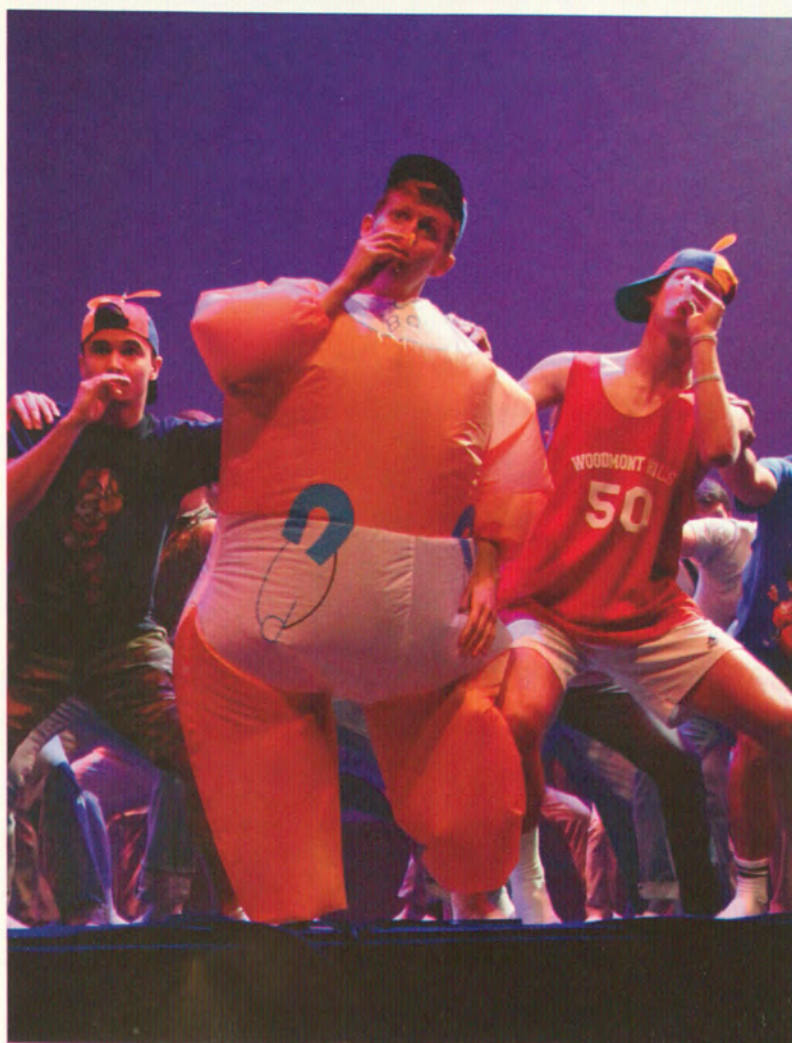
The brothers of Pi Kappa Phi pride themselves on being one of the leading fraternities on campus. With their large membership numbers, campus involvement and diligent service efforts, they look forward to continuing their influence in the Greek system and on campus for years to come.

*Article by Hallie King*

*Photos contributed by Lauren Carey, Sarah Ferrell, Bridget Ivey and Preston Little*



*Anniversary Fact:* Pi Kappa Phi was established on Dec. 10, 1904 and was chartered on Samford's campus on April 25, 1925.





# Sigma Nu

The Iota chapter of Sigma Nu is the longest standing chapter in the fraternity's history. Despite upsets and changes like Step Sing participation, the fraternity has been a consistent presence on campus since its chartering in the late 1800s. With brothers committed to love, honor and truth, Sigma Nu holds a strong position in Samford's Greek system.

"We are the longest running Sigma Nu chapter in the country. We have been at Samford for 139 years and have never been kicked off campus," said junior exercise science major Tyler Queen.

With only 75 members, the brothers of Sigma Nu are a tight-knit group. Many are athletes, building relationships with one another within the fraternity and through their activities. Whether on a field, in a classroom or in the fraternity house, Sigma Nu brothers can be found together across campus.

"My favorite thing about us is how close all of us are," said Queen. "Everybody knows everyone very well and we all hang out with each other all the time. Only having 75 total members helps us all stay close."

In addition to their commitment to one another and the fraternity, Sigma Nu members are also diligent in their philanthropy service. Their main service efforts are geared toward cancer research, with annual support for St. Jude Children's Hospital and the Relay for Life. They also regularly participate in Habitat for

Humanity builds and assist in putting on the annual Dance for Downs, an event hosted by Unless U for local residents with special needs.

Because of their significant contributions across campus and around Birmingham, Sigma Nu is an important contributor in Greek life and the Samford community as a whole. Look for them on the athletic fields, in the classrooms, in the fraternity house or committing time to the community with one another.

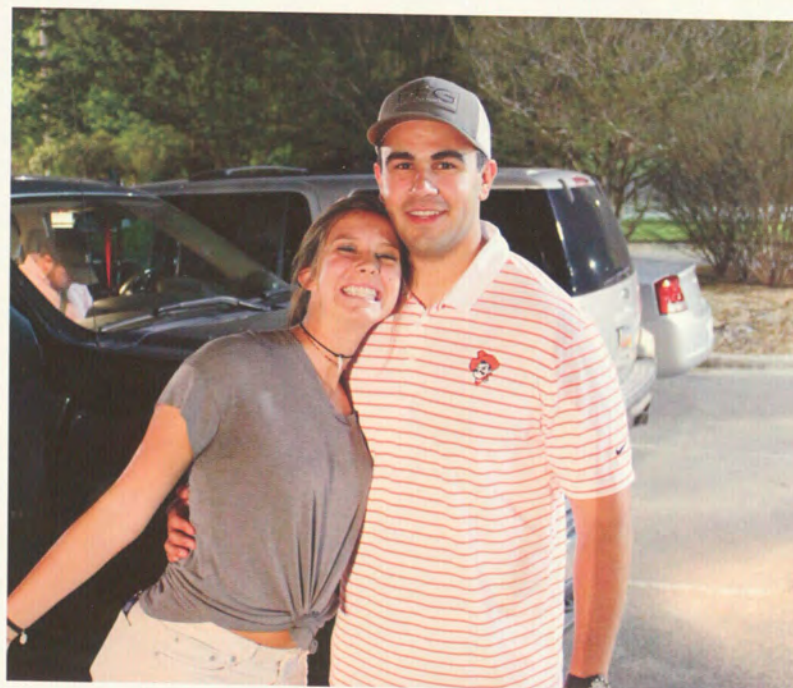
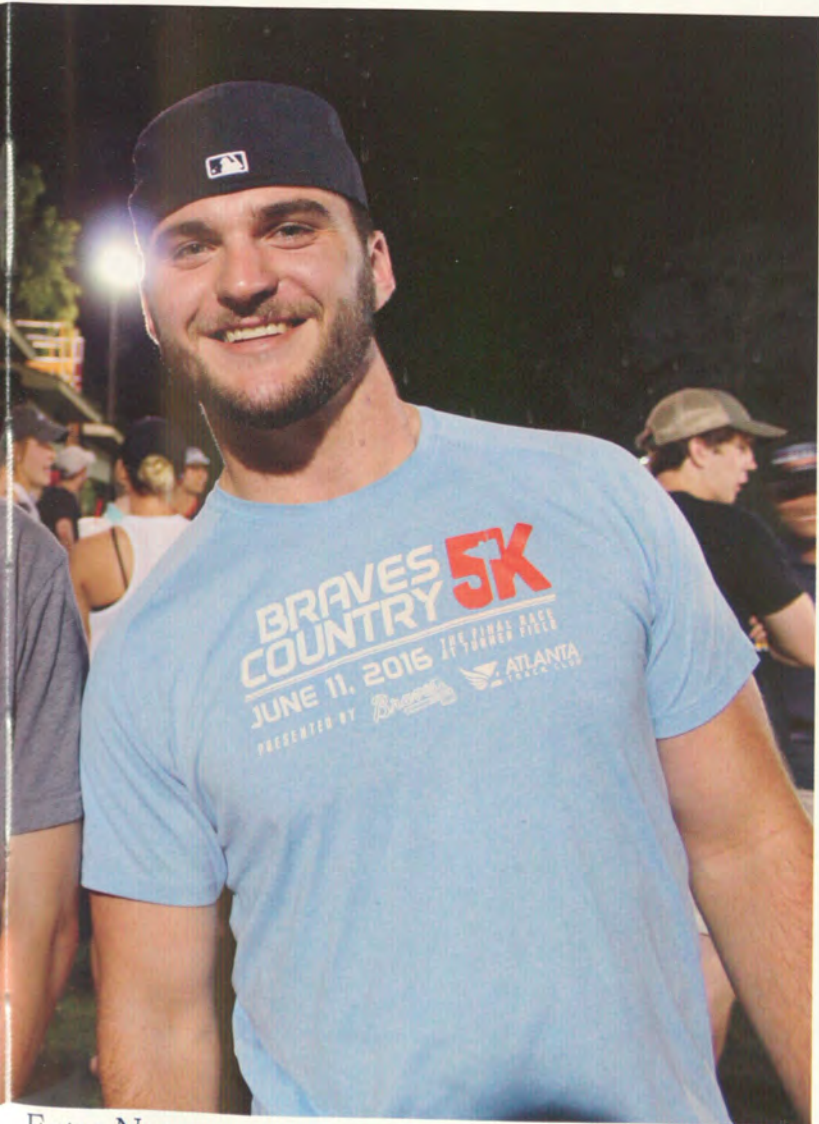
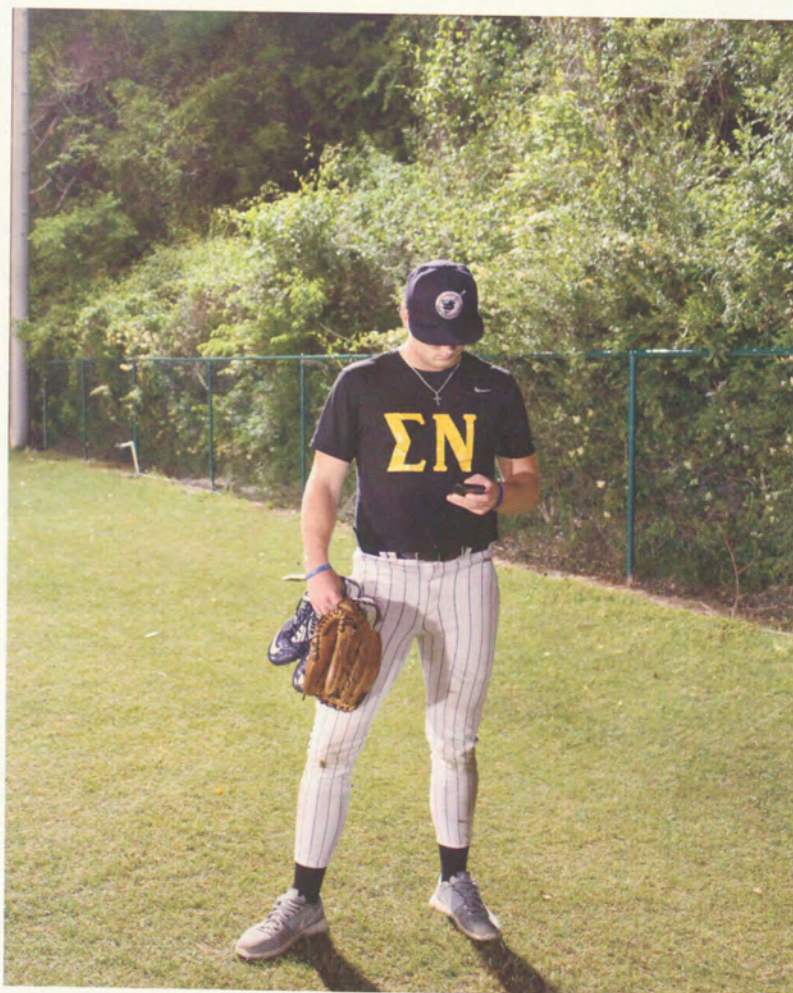
*Article by Hallie King*

*Photos contributed by*

*Emma Frances Thompson*







*Anniversary Fact*  
 Sigma Nu was founded on  
 Jan. 1, 1869 and the Iota  
 chapter was formed at Howard  
 College ten years later in 1879.



# National Pan-Hellenic Council





The National Pan-Hellenic Council represents the three chapters of The Divine Nine that are currently represented at Samford University. Thus, this council primarily works with Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity Inc., Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority Inc. and Delta Sigma Theta Sorority Inc.

"We came to the decision that although our numbers are small, it's not the quantity that makes us who we are, but the quality of the efforts we put forth to ensure that we matter and are important in the community," said senior education major Ca'dric Moulton.

This year, NPHC was involved in a variety of events.

"Greek Speak, the NPHC Step Show in partnership with the Office of Diversity and Intercultural Initiatives, and the Rotel Cook-off helped fuel our goal of uniting the community between Greeks and minorities on campus," said sophomore biology major Michal Graves.

Other events they hosted throughout the year helped bolster the NPHC community as a whole along with their integration with other Samford organizations.

The organization was intentional in upholding general values and ensured that NPHC was known on campus. In the fall, they hosted Greek Speak, which presented more information on the history of NPHC Sororities and Fraternities, as well as ways that people could get involved. The council also organized the NPHC Stroll-Off, which allowed participating fraternities and sororities to showcase their traditional strolls.

Further, the organization hosted keynote speaker Rasheed Cromwell, who specializes in fraternity and sorority life — especially African-American Greek Life. NPHC also upheld service values by encouraging students to make cards for patients at St. Jude's Hospital.

Pursuing brotherhood with the rest of campus, the council hosted events that encouraged bonding with other students. For instance, they hosted a bowling night with NPHC, which was open to anyone at Samford. They brought out food trucks to service all Samford students for their NPHC week. They also organized the NPHC Kick it with the Greeks, which encouraged everyone on campus to come and get to know the organization better.

The sororities and fraternities affiliated with NPHC represented themselves with endurance and strength, and look forward to growing and moving forward in the future.

*Article by Jamie Davenport*

*Photos contributed by Marquis Barnes, Alexis Crutchfield and Ca'dric Moulton*



**Anniversary Fact:** NPHC was formed on May 10, 1930 and Samford's NPHC constitution was drafted in fall 2010.



# Alpha Kappa Alpha



The ladies of Alpha Kappa Alpha were widely successful in upholding their goals of service.

"Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. is an international service organization. Our main goal is to accomplish effective service through the bond of sisterhood," said Alexis Crutchfield, a senior psychology major and Alpha Kappa Alpha president. Clocking 507 service hours this year, they did just that.

In the fall, they showed support for breast cancer awareness and research through sporting pink and volunteering in Linn Park for the Susan G. Komen Race for the Cure. Samford's chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha also assembled food boxes for families in need in order to raise community awareness for childhood hunger in the area. In addition, they encouraged going green by making multiple trips to the Birmingham Recycling Center throughout the year. Later in the semester, they collected toys for the Lovelady Center in Birmingham.

In late January, the chapter volunteered at the Community Kitchen in honor of Martin Luther King Jr. During February, the chapter participated in their national event "Pink Goes Red" day, which raises awareness for heart disease and activities to prevent it.

For Women's History Month, Alpha Kappa Alpha continued its tradition of acknowledging and celebrating women on Samford's campus. They honored many women on social media and selected Jaleté Joseph-Nelms for Phenomenal Woman of the Year.

"The standards of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority Incorporated truly represent mine and I am so excited to be accepted into this sisterhood and to serve the world," said freshman musical theatre major Jasmine Johnson.

The chapter participated in social events with a Step Sing show, the Unity Step Show and the separate NPHC show. AKA Week was a mixture of social and service events that promoted campus spirit and causes such as recycling and sickle cell awareness. Alpha Kappa Alpha supported the Sickle Cell Foundation, ThinkHBCU and Africare throughout the year.

"I joined Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority Inc. because I wanted to be a part of something that was bigger than myself," said freshman musical theatre major Theo Edwards-Butler.

Through this sorority's actions in the past year alone, it was clear that they make a difference at the local, national and international levels.

*Article by Jamie Davenport*

*Photos contributed by Alexis Crutchfield*

*Entre Nous*



*Anniversary Fact:* Alpha Kappa Alpha was chartered at Samford on May 14, 1988 as the first African-American Greek organization on campus.





# Alpha Phi Alpha

The "Too Icy" Tau Iota chapter of Alpha Phi Alpha fraternity worked diligently to hold high the name of the fraternity.

"This past year we wanted to build the brand of the Tau Iota chapter, to really get our name out there not only on campus but throughout the entire state of Alabama," said chapter president John Banks.

The chapter was successful in doing so, holding events and volunteering to show the work of the Tau Iota chapter. They hosted events like Kicking Away Cancer, a self-defense class to raise money for breast cancer in Birmingham, "take a child to the doctor day" and a group for Samford Gives Back.

The chapter also won many awards this year with Philanthropy and Interfraternal Relation awards, district award for voter registration and district debate competition winners. Continuing to get the Tau Iota name out as a dominate chapter of Alpha Phi Alpha, the chapter welcomed five promising brothers from the football teams at Samford and Birmingham-Southern College, a rare but special occasion for Alpha Phi Alpha members inducted in the spring semester.

"This year was one of the peak years for the chapter when it comes to notability and service and we plan to go even higher next year," said senior accounting major Jalen Spraggins.

The chapter most notably created a video to Bruno Mars' hit song "That's What

I Like" that received over 34,500 shares on Facebook and 32,000 views on YouTube. Since the creation, the chapter has been in high demand and was invited to do shows in the state and as far away as Arkansas over the summer.

"The brothers have worked hard to get our name out in the state and have been very successful doing so," said chapter adviser and alumnus Cameron Thomas. "Next year we plan to build a more successful chapter and volunteer more events in the name of Alpha Phi Alpha."

*Article by Gerald Smith*

*Photos contributed by Marquis Barnes*







*Anniversary Fact:*  
The Tau Iota chapter of Alpha Phi Alpha was founded on April 12, 2000 consisting of men from multiple Birmingham colleges.



# Delta Sigma Theta





Delta Sigma Theta Sorority Inc. is part of the National Pan-Hellenic Council at Samford. The sorority strives to promote economic and educational development as well as health and international awareness. The chapter at Samford is especially prominent in educational and service goals.

In the fall, Delta Sigma Theta partnered with Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity Inc. to promote political activity from Samford students. In preparation for the presidential elections, the two held a voter registration drive to encourage faculty and students alike to take the necessary steps to vote on Nov. 8.

The sorority also hosted Santa's Little Diva's Toy Drive, where they collected both toys and donations for impoverished children. Around this time, they also participated in a social action project by passing out flyers with statistics on African Americans in the United States. For finals, the Delta Sigma Theta ladies passed out goody bags with candy and encouragements for students.

In the spring, the sorority remained active. In February, they honored Black History month by passing out Black History facts to assist students on Samford's campus in understanding this vital element of American history.

Delta Sigma Theta also held the Stay Woke Financial Workshop, which aided their peers in understanding personal finances and how to make smart financial decisions. In regard to funds, the sisters of Delta Sigma Theta provided a scholarship to an outstanding minority student in memory of one of their founders, Tiffany Nicole Conaway.

"One of the largest contributions we offer is raising money for our Tiffany Nicole Conway Memorial Scholarship," said senior education major Ca'dric Moulton. "This scholarship allows us the opportunity to offer a minority student with exceeding academics \$1,000."

Through this scholarship, minority students are better equipped to excel during their college years.

To end the year, the Deltas held their annual Delta Week which included such festivities as a Carnival Fun Day and giveaways. Erica Smith, a senior health sciences major and the president of Delta Sigma Theta, described this as one of her favorite events.

"Our Games & Prizes event stole the show because we had two baby ducklings that were the main attraction," said Smith. "Everyone loved the baby ducks and had a blast!"

This fun-loving attitude and focus on community enrichment highlighted the strengths of the sorority.

*Article by Jamie Davenport*

*Photos contributed by Ca'dric Moulton*



**Anniversary Fact:** Delta Sigma Theta was founded on Jan. 13, 1913 and the Sigma Eta chapter was chartered on March 18, 1995.



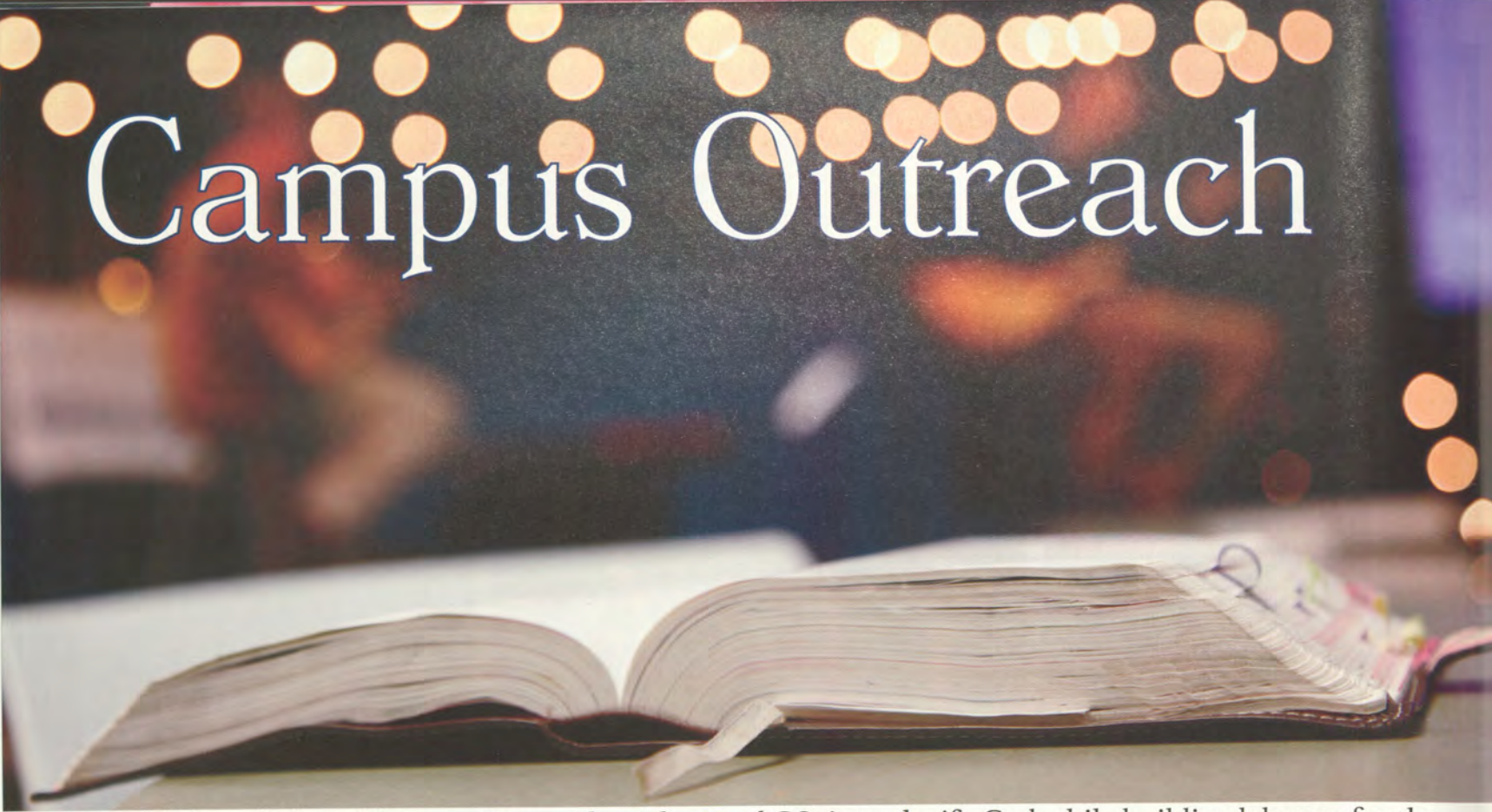
# FAITH

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# Campus Outreach

The mission of Campus Outreach, nicknamed CO, is to glorify God while building laborers for the lost world on Samford's campus.

The organization held weekly meetings incorporating worship, a speaker and a student testimony to challenge students' walk with Christ. One of the primary goals is to make disciples. They did this through discipleship groups that students could plug into throughout the semester.

Elizabeth Randall invested four years into CO as a room leader at the Summer Beach Project as well as a community group leader throughout the year.

"I am truly thankful for the impact Campus Outreach has had on my life," said Randall, a senior nursing major. "I have grown immensely in my relationship with the Lord and am grateful for the encouragement and challenge the CO community has given me throughout my college experience."

CO offers a community and a place for student growth. The discipleship training opportunities through CO empower students to step into leadership positions and challenge them to live a life representing Christ. CO facilitates the emergence of deep relationships with people who shared the same ideals and challenges in their walk with Christ.

"CO has been the place on campus where I have found close, caring friends and a sense of leadership," said Hailee Underhill, a junior early childhood education major.

Underhill participated in the Summer Beach Project and the Cross-Cultural Project to Australia, only a few of many retreats and discipleship-focused trips that students participated in to grow in their walk with Christ and immerse themselves in a community. These trips provided intense discipleship and impactful teaching that challenged every listening ear and lit a fire in students to strive to be like Christ and run toward a deeper relationship with Him.

"In CO, I have been able to see the beauty of the Gospel displayed in the lives of ordinary people," said Sara Saunders, a junior nursing major who also participated in the Summer Beach Project and the Cross-Cultural Project to Australia, "and I have seen people love each other with grace and honesty."

Those who truly immerse themselves into the community at CO and soak in what it offers witness the power of the Gospel, the urgency of its declaration and the people who exemplify Christ's love through their love for each other.

*Article by Emilie White*

*Photos by Emma Massengale*

*Entre Nous*



*Anniversary Fact:* Campus Outreach was established in 1978 by a Samford graduate at Briarwood Presbyterian Church in Birmingham.





# Reign

With hearts on fire for the Lord, students gathered in Reid Chapel every Tuesday night at 8:30 to worship together at Reign. Students from all over campus worked hard throughout the year to make Reign a free place of worship where people could spend time in fellowship and praise.

"Being a part of Reign has been such a blessing to me because I have truly been able to grow in my faith," said freshman biology pre-med major Jessica Lawrence. "There is such a freedom of worship at Reign every week, and I always look forward to worshipping because it is a great stress reliever at the beginning of my week."

A group of students were given the opportunity to lead Reign and guide the organization throughout the year.

Composed of eight students, the leadership team prayed for students and helped organize events other than weekly worship to build community.

"I love Reign because of the community that it brings," said freshman psychology major Anna Hardin. "I've had people ask to eat meals with me and check up on me, and they really do their best to make it feel like a family atmosphere. I feel like they accomplish that goal well."

Reign was one of the many on-campus ministries that allowed students to grow closer to each other in their walk with the Lord.

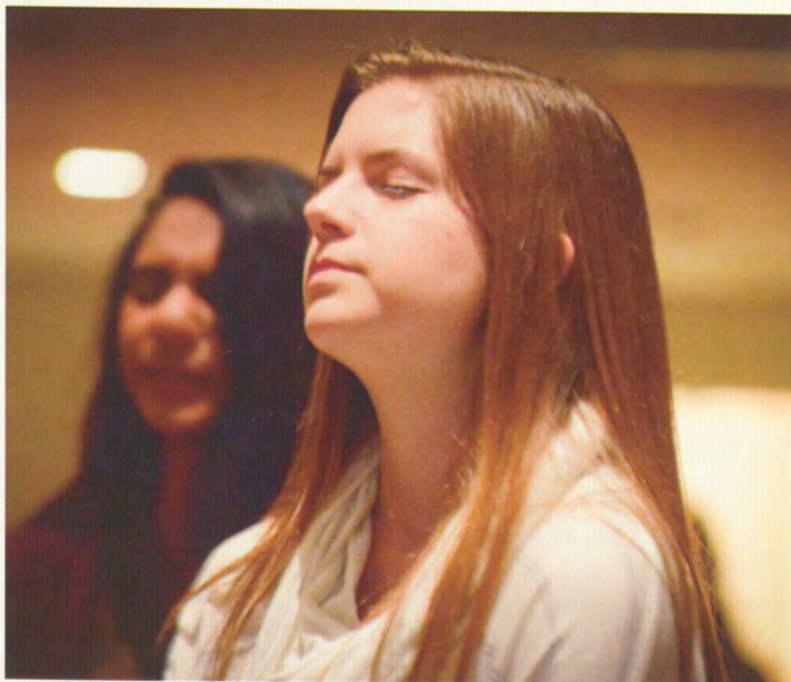
"Reign has helped me grow so much in my faith because I've been surrounded by such God-fearing people who have pushed me to learn more about the Lord and put my faith in Him," said freshman communication sciences and disorders major Angel Sims. "Reign has also given me a support system that I don't think I would've found otherwise, and that's one of my favorite parts."

Reign encouraged students to lift the Name of God, not only during their times of weekly worship, but in every moment throughout every day.

*Article and Photos by Stephen DeFrancesco*







*Anniversary Fact:*  
Samford students previously participated in Rain Worship until 2015, when Reign was established on campus in its place.



# RUF





Every Tuesday night, Harry's Coffeehouse was a buzz of excitement. Students gathered together, worshiped with one another and heard teaching from God's Word. As Reformed University Fellowship, or RUF, grew throughout the year, students heard from God in many ways.

"RUF has allowed me to meet a great group of people that I may not have met otherwise," said freshman nursing major Maggie Kohlbusch. "It is nice to have RUF to look forward to throughout the week and go to for fellowship and worship."

This student faith organization focused on the book of Genesis in their teachings each week. With hymns and calls to worship, RUF strived to make sure they were being both contemporary and traditional. Two interns and a campus minister helped the organization to meet their goals both spiritually and socially.

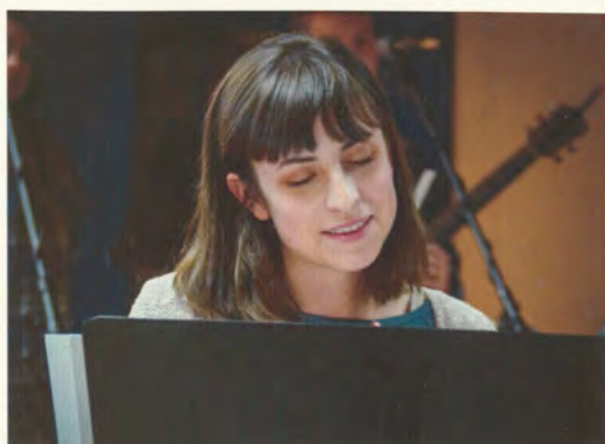
"I work for RUF at Samford as a campus intern," said Tim Grider. "RUF placed me here to assist in the ministry to Samford and to learn under the campus minister. Getting to learn and grow alongside students is what makes it the best job in the world."

Along with regular Tuesday worship, RUF members gathered in the Howard Room for a weekly Bible study. Here, students discussed different passages of the Bible and had the opportunity to hear from their classmates about how the reading affected their lives.

"My favorite thing about RUF is that it is a place for fellow students to come worship the Lord and de-stress," said freshman business major Woody Connell. "It allows for us to put our focus back on God."

Overall, RUF aimed to further the message of the Gospel through worship, biblical teaching and passionate study of the Bible. Students developed their relationships with the Lord and celebrated what He did for them all year long as they gathered together, having fun while doing so.

*Article and Photos by Stephen DeFrancesco*



*Anniversary Fact: RUF began ministering to Samford students in 2002. The group celebrated its 15th anniversary on campus in 2017.*



# RANSOM



Radical Athlete and Student Oasis Ministry, informally known as RANSOM, is a student-led ministry open to athletes and non-athletes. This ministry was formed by Jeremy Towns, a Samford alumnus who graduated in 2013. Over the past few years, RANSOM spread to The University of Alabama at Birmingham and Campbell University in North Carolina.

The ministry met every Monday night at 7:50 p.m., and anyone on campus was invited to attend regardless of what sports and activities they participated in or where they were in their faith.

"Most of the ministries on campus expect you to already be a Christian, but this is a place where people who aren't really strong in their faith or even in their faith at all can come and just learn things and decide what they believe on their own," said sophomore biology major Qiona Payton. "You can come and experience stories from people who have accepted their faith and are strong in it. Even if you are not a Christian, you can still learn something that helps you deal with everyday life. These are people that you can relate to whether you're an athlete or not."

Students were always welcomed as they walked into the Mountain View lobby.

"I could immediately tell that this is a place where you can have a heart for Jesus and not feel judged," said sophomore pre-business major Noah Crawford. "There are some places where you feel like you need to hold back, but not here."

The theme verse for the ministry is John 15:13, which reads, "Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends."

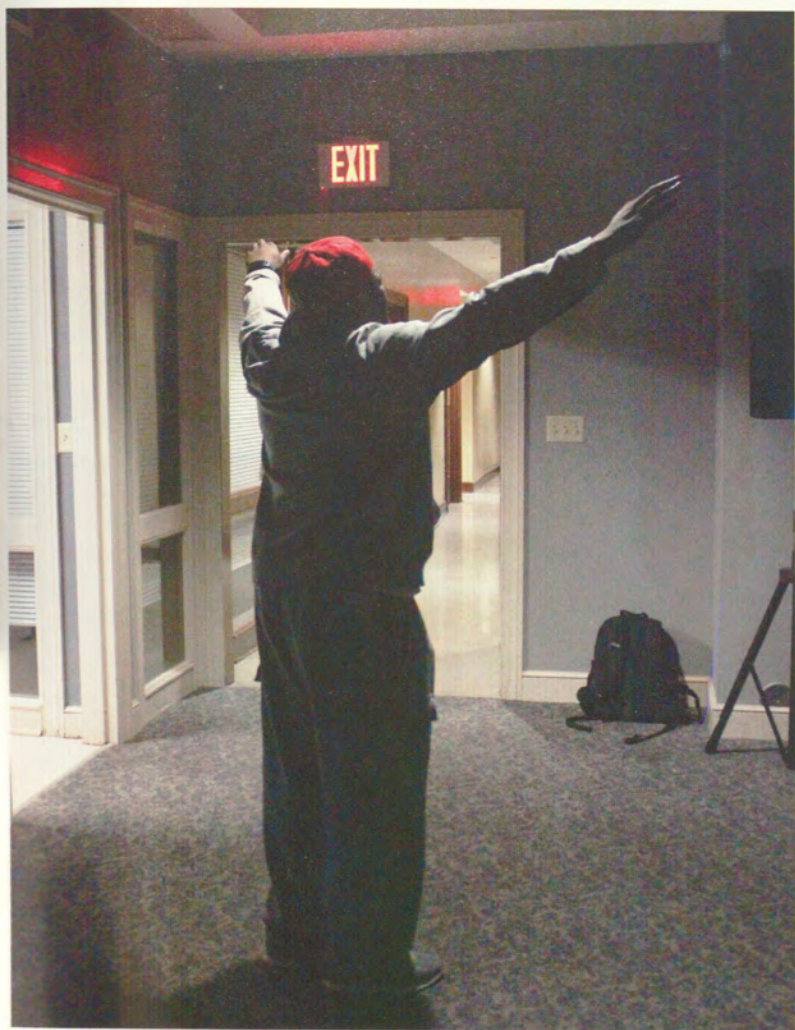
RANSOM is all about bringing people together in a loving and accepting environment while sharing the Word of God. A typical meeting included an abundance of singing and dancing along with a message shared by a fellow student.

"RANSOM is a great ministry to have on campus because it allows us to worship freely," Micah Green-Holloway, a senior management major, said. "It also brings the campus together the most, in my opinion. It brings athletes and non-athletes together. It brings Greeks and non-Greeks together. The experience is very diverse. It fosters more of a holistic picture of who Christ is."

*Article and photos by Katie Roth*



*Anniversary Fact:* RANSOM began as a football player bible study in the food court in 2008, before Jeremy Towns officially created the group.





# Catholic Student Association

Meeting faithfully every week, the Catholic Student Association revealed their dedication to their faith. Although a smaller organization at the university, the Catholic Student Association prided themselves on being devoted to mass, communion and the reading of God's Word every Thursday in Divinity North.

"Being a part of the Catholic Student Association provided me with a foundation to be involved with a strong group of people together on a predominantly Protestant campus," said Madeline Fric, a junior biology major. "The organization has helped me nourish my faith in the Catholic Church, and it provided me with opportunities to display my devotion to Christ."

The organization reached out to students in every age group, encouraging them to stay faithful in their walk with the Lord.

"For me, being a part of the Catholic Student Association was more than just going to weekly mass," said Becca Weatherford, sophomore international relations and Spanish major. "It was truly a group of people who I could celebrate with and share what I believe."

The student organization did, in fact, hold more than just weekly mass. Many times throughout the semesters, they met at Saint Stephen's Catholic Chapel in Birmingham on Saturday mornings to fellowship with one another and participate in communion. From freshmen to seniors and even to faculty and staff, the Catholic Student Association made it clear that they were open to all.

"Being able to join with students in communion and Catholic mass weekly gave me a great opportunity, as a professor, to grow in my relationships with my students," said Timothy Sutton, director of Communication Arts. "I've been able to grow closer to students through the Catholic Student Association, while also personally growing in my faith."

The Catholic Student Association, while reaching the students on campus, truly displayed their love and devotion to their faith in all of their actions as a group.

*Article and photos by Stephen DeFrancesco*

*Anniversary Fact* The Catholic Student Association was founded in 2009 for Catholic and non-Catholic students.





# Samford Sundays



Howard College Day, or H-Day, began in the fall of 1948. The Howard College Ministerial Association wanted to provide more service and training opportunities to its students, so a partnership was created with many Baptist associations around Alabama. The original plan was to assign one pre-ministerial scholar to each church within the association on every fifth Sunday.

On the first H-Day, participating students partnered with Etowah Baptist Association and spoke at 12 participating churches. The Columbia Baptist Association took notice and extended an invitation to the Ministerial Association the following January. On the second H-Day, students preached in all 42 churches in the association.

"Many of these churches are in small towns or rural areas and contain the people who helped start Howard College, which is now Samford University," said James Barnette, director of Samford Sundays. "They're the reason that this university exists. Usually the student who goes out to the church is the face of Samford for the entire year, so we make sure each student represents us well with their sermon and their attitudes."



Before students were allowed to preach, they took part in a certification process to ensure that they would be an effective representative of Samford, Alabama Baptists and, most importantly, the Lord.

"It's for the people. That's the biggest part of being a pastor or a preacher: caring for the people," said sophomore religion major Brady Graves. "It really is cool talking to these guys who have been in the ministry for three times as long as I've been alive."

Renamed to Samford Sunday in 1999, the program has been an ongoing success. Each Sunday, an average of 5-12 students preached at the church assigned, ranging from 30 minutes to three hours away. Students preached to churches containing anywhere from five to 200 people.

"They're very genuine people," said senior sports medicine major Joshua Washington. "Some of the people are not the most educated, so they don't have any in-depth analyses that people seem to champion. But their faith is very real, and they can teach you a lot."

Samford Sunday is still partnered with the Alabama Baptist State Board of Missions and participated almost every Sunday in the fall and spring semesters.

*Article and photos by Katie Roth*

*Anniversary Fact: Samford Sundays is a working branch of preministerial scholars that was established in 1999 after branching off of H-Day.*



# Delight

*Anniversary Fact:* Delight Ministries was started by two women at Belmont University and made its way to Samford's campus in February of 2015.

The main goal of Delight was to pursue genuine and intentional relationships and conversations with other college women while also glorifying God.

"I kept coming back to Delight because I liked the message that it gave about how we should be vulnerable with others. I think, especially freshman year, I struggled with vulnerability because it's hard to be vulnerable with people you don't know," said Emma Eells, a junior communication studies major.

This was one of the smaller campus ministries, so it became a close-knit group that was a home to women from different places, majors and classes. Members were able to meet people they otherwise would have never encountered.

"I was able to form relationships with so many different types of girls from all different parts of campus who I usually wouldn't have run into on a daily basis," said senior finance major Savannah Stewart. "Plus, we were all talking about Christ, which just added another dimension to the friendships."

Besides the weekly meetings, the women attended special events each month throughout the school year. From various worship nights to ice cream socials to holiday dinners to an Earth Day hike, members of this group always found time for each other



and for new friends.

"It's so much more than what it looks like on the surface level," said sophomore graphic design major Brie Fernandez. "If you come into it and you choose to invest, people are going to invest in you, and that's part of being an intentional person and building a Christ-like community. We want you. We want to get to know you and pour into you and be able to be there for you when you feel like no one else wants to be. We want to speak life over you and point you back to the cross."

Delight met around different areas of campus every Thursday night and continues to grow with each semester.

*Article and photos by Katie Roth*





# Grace Dance Ministries



Grace Dance Ministries is a student-run club that held free dance classes in the fall and provided an opportunity for students to dance in a show in the spring. Grace had a strong community of dancers who encouraged each other in the Lord as they memorized scripture and danced for His glory.

"Grace brings together all levels of dancers and unites them under our shared desire to form a community and serve the Lord," said Madeline Perkins, a junior English major and the director of Grace Dance. "It's a fun balance of dancing, hanging out and worshipping the Lord."

Grace Dance welcomed dancers from all different dance backgrounds and skill levels. There was no minimum skill requirement in order to participate in the dance classes or the performance in the spring.

"I love that there is no pressure to be a perfect dancer," said Sarah McGhee, a junior psychology major and the communications coordinator for Grace Dance Ministries. "We all love dance, but most of all we love the Lord and building community, and that's what brings us together."

The dancers prepared a myriad of dances to perform in a one hour performance in April as a form of worship and a way to reach students with the Gospel. The performance had a theme that all of the dances centered around titled "Letters", representing the letters of Paul.

"Joining Grace Dance was like becoming part of a family," said Emily Fenske, a freshman nursing major. "The ever-abundant love, encouragement and fire for the Lord were so prevalent in every class and rehearsal. The girls themselves are absolute gems and they are beautiful both onstage and off."

God used Grace to challenge and grow the hearts of the participating dancers as well as the spectators.

*Article by Emilie White*

*Photos contributed by Emilie White*



**Anniversary Fact:** Grace Dance Ministries began as Movement With a Message in 2004 and the title was changed to Grace in 2008.



# Preministerial Scholars

*Anniversary Fact:* The Preministerial Scholars program was established in 2008 as a recruitment program for Samford students interested in pursuing seminary degrees or ministry careers.

Working to bring more glory to the Lord, the Preministerial Scholars program encouraged selected students to grow closer to one another as they sought their minors in religion. The program was open to students who had plans to go into ministry or study religion during their time at Samford.

Scholars participated in internships throughout the year, which involved serving regularly at local churches or non-profit mission organizations. Many of the scholars were also a part of a Preministerial Cadre during the year.

"Being in the Preministerial Cadre has allowed me to grow on a relational level but also on a spiritual level," said freshman history major Ben Hewitt, "and this is something that I am very thankful for."

The Preministerial Scholars also participated in a mentorship program where mentors set at least 30 minutes per week aside to spend with a younger student. They focused on ministry evaluation, planning, relationship building and spiritual formation during their times together.

"Premin has afforded me the opportunity to press into my faith and dive deeper into what it means to follow Christ and be a minister of his gospel," said sophomore religion major J.D. Tyler.

The Preministerial Scholars program has been part of Samford's religion department for many years, and the program emphasizes spiritual callings, leadership and high moral standards for their scholars.

"There is a genuine brother and sisterhood between students who share the call to Christian ministry, and it's great to have moments of oasis with others who understand



this unshakeable call," said Dr. James Barnette, director of the Preministerial Scholars program. "It has been a joy to serve as a mentor to them as they discern how that call will flesh itself out through service that increases God's kingdom."

The Preministerial Scholars encouraged and strengthened students during the year by helping them grow in their faith as well as in their tight-knit Christian community.

*Article and photos by Stephen DeFrancesco*





# Micah Fellows



Micah Fellows is a new four-year honors college based on the scripture Micah 6:8 that says, "And what does the Lord require of you? To act justly, and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with your God." The program provided an exceptional university experience through inventive course work, impactful community development and service abroad.

"I think the Micah Fellows program is unique. We all get along really well, and we are all passionate about service and have a variety of different interests," said Elizabeth Autry, freshman human development and family science major. "I'm pumped to spend the next 3 years with everyone as well as grow, learn, and serve together as a group and individually."

The Micah Fellows experience included internship placements with service organizations in Birmingham, a spring break service trip exclusive to Micah Fellows students, a \$3,000 service abroad scholarship, discussion cadres and grant development work for Birmingham service organizations.

"I am so thankful to be a Micah Fellow and to be surrounded by people who are passionate about using justice, mercy, and humility for the community and the

world," said freshman theatre for youth major Madison Merkel.

Each year the Micah Fellows have a different concentration. The first year was called "The Call to Justice" which explored classical and Christian concepts of justice in courses, cadres, discussions and service opportunities. Micah Fellows students will concentrate on "The Call to Mercy" and "The Call to Humility" in further years.

"As a Micah Fellow, I have learned about justice and service in a humbling way," said freshman Spanish major Sierra Outerbridge. "One of my favorite parts is the community I have found with the Micah Fellows and the dedication of our professors. It is an honor to be a Micah Fellow and I cannot wait to learn more about justice, mercy, and humility."

Micah Fellows is an excellent program that not only shaped students to have service-oriented thinking, but also directly impacted the Birmingham community and the world.

*Article by Katie Roth*

*Photo by Chris Kawell*

*Photo contributed by Elizabeth Kolakoski*

**Anniversary Fact:** The first group of Micah Fellows began the program in fall 2016 and will follow the course of the program for four years with new students joining each year.



# Office of Spiritual Life

*Anniversary Fact:* The Office of Spiritual Life replaced University Ministries in 2014 to serve the spiritual needs of all students.

The Office of Spiritual Life sought to help students grow in their faith. By hosting weekly convocations and planning spiritual life retreats at the beginning of each semester, the Office of Spiritual Life worked diligently to encourage and equip students in their pursuit of Christ and theological knowledge.

"With the Office of Spiritual Life, through cadres and home groups, I've been challenged to understand why I believe what I believe," said Nathan Peace, a freshman music and worship major. "I've also been encouraged to deepen my faith in a close community as we study God's Word together and seek to apply Biblical principals to every aspect of life."

Students also learned from many of the Office of Spiritual Life staff members, growing in spiritual maturity and discovering the importance of missions.

"Our objective in the Office of Spiritual Life is to encourage counter-cultural obedience to Christ," said Dr. Matthew Kerlin, assistant vice president for student development. "The most rewarding part of my job has always been seeing students mature in their faith and find God's direction for their lives."

The Office of Spiritual Life also focused on making sure students had plenty of opportunities to gather together in worship and share perspectives.

"I think the most important part of convocation is that it allows me to go to lectures and events that



I wouldn't normally go to which means that I get to examine faith based issues and social issues through a new perspective," said Kendall Luna, a senior sociology major.

Whether through theological study or mission-minded service, students engaged with the Office of Spiritual Life throughout the year and were able to grow in their faith along with their peers.

*Article by Stephen DeFrancesco*

*Photos by Maddie Sundberg*





# Home Groups



The Office of Spiritual Life offered the unique opportunity for students of all years and majors to meet weekly in small groups at faculty members' homes for a home-cooked meal and Bible study. Students used this time to briefly break away from their studies and be replenished by time focused on fellowship.

"My favorite part of being involved in a Samford home group is being able to come into community with people from all across campus who I would not get to know otherwise," said sophomore human development and family education major Maigan Jenkins.

Most conversations around the dinner table allowed students to open up about the high points and low points of their week and to share what the Lord was doing in their lives. Bible studies often focused on the message shared in convocation the previous week and allowed students to observe Scripture together, connecting it to their lives outside of the home group.



"Home groups provide a space of complete acceptance and support," junior communication studies major Kirtland Purdy said. "We seek to help one another through life and we feel free at all times to share prayer requests and keep up with one another throughout the week."

Students volunteered to facilitate home groups, providing a way to assume a leadership position and create a space for fellow students to find community and encouraging conversation. Home groups continued to grow as more faculty willingly opened up their homes.

"Dr. George's home cooking is what I looked forward to every Monday night," sophomore pre-business major Carson Guess said. "She willingly opened her home to Samford students to allow us to become closer with one another."

Home groups open new spots annually and always welcome new members and hosts.

*Article by Kristen Jackson*

*Photos by Maddie Sundberg*

*Anniversary Fact: The trial launch of home groups began in spring 2014 and official home groups were established in fall 2014.*



# A FINAL "FIRST THOUGHTS"

ADAPTED FROM REMARKS AT THE CONVOCATION CEREMONY  
CELEBRATING SAMFORD UNIVERSITY'S 175<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY  
NOVEMBER 11, 2016

So often I have asked myself, is it possible to love a place? To love another human being, yes, we know the answer to that question. Unassailably yes. It is the height of human happiness to do so. But a place? Buildings and dusty halls and grass and vines and playing fields and faculty offices piled high with ungraded papers and classrooms with imperfect furniture and sidewalks and dirt and trees.

May we love a place? May we love a place that is simultaneously too much but never enough? May we love a place that is somehow always at the root of as many questions as answers? May we love a place?

I lack the philosophical framework to answer the question with the rationality that I would prefer. All I know is that when that place is Samford, I can only say, yes. I love this place. And thousands of people across the planet, many with Samford degrees but many without, would say the same. We love Samford. Perhaps because Samford is always people, dear people we have known and who we want to know; and because Samford is, itself, always.

So much potential has been fulfilled; so much potential remains. This place, our Samford, may become of greater value to a world in which too little hope resides in too few hearts.

You have been part of an extraordinary year as we have celebrated 175 years of Samford. We have a Samford to love because of the generations that have gone before and loved this place deeply. The events and people reflected in these pages add to the wonderful heritage that is Samford. Years from now when you reflect back on this year and your Samford experiences, may your love for this place be stronger than ever so that future generations have a Samford to love.

Andrew Westmoreland  
President



# COMMENCEMENT

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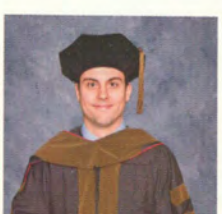
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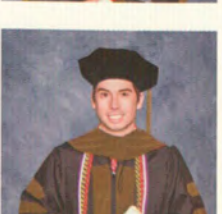
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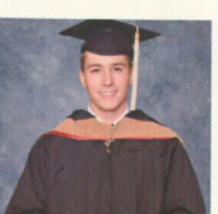
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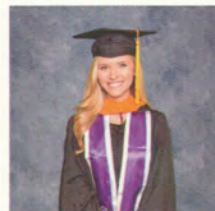
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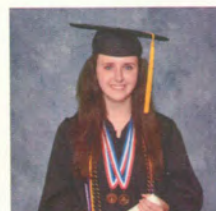
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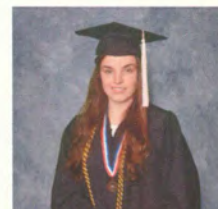
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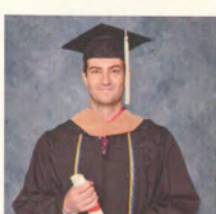
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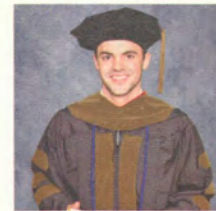
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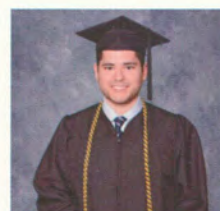
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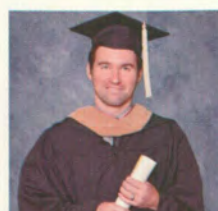
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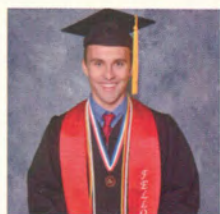




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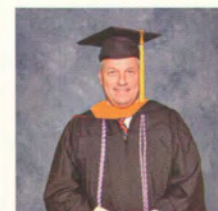
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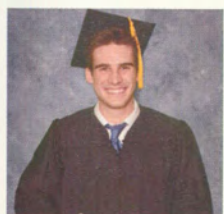
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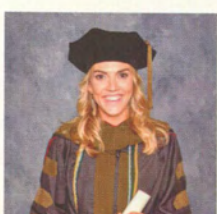




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